

THE DAILY TEXAN

Serving the University of Texas at Austin community since 1900

LATE-NIGHT LEGISLATION

Venue frequented by political leaders remains under the radar

BAR

LIFE&ARTS PAGE 10

THE BIGGEST BATTLE

Hockey coach supported by team while struggling with disease

SPORTS PAGE 8

SIGN ME UP

Longhorn recruiting efforts find talent in San Antonio

SPORTS PAGE 7

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Thursday, February 3, 2011

TODAY

Calendar

What Comes Next?

The LBJ School of Public Affairs will host a panel discussion about what comes next for Egypt and Tunisia from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Bass Lecture Hall.

'Come What May'

The Alamo Drafthouse will host a "Moulin Rouge" sing-along at 7 p.m. and a can-can dance competition before the show. Tickets range from \$12 to \$44.

Lunar New Year

The Asian American Culture Committee will throw a Lunar New Year Celebration for the UT community from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Texas Union Ballroom. For a video sneak peek of the Lunar New Year festival, visit dailytexanonline.com

'Dust Lane'

French composer Yann Tiersen will play at the Mohawk with Austin locals Mother Falcon. Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door, the show starts at 7:30 p.m.

Today in history

In 1959

Rising American rock stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson die in a plane crash.

Campus watch

Shooting Hoops

Gregory Gym
A UT staff member observed two non-UT subjects enter the building, without purchasing and day pass, and begin playing basketball on the second floor. During the investigation, the officers located the subjects, issued them written Criminal Trespass Warnings and escorted them from the area.



Quote to note

"All I wanted to do was come to Texas. Texas was the end of the road for me. It was as high as I'd dreamed, as far as I'd thought."

— **Huston Street**
Former Longhorn pitcher

SPORTS PAGE 7

Proposal may cut traffic, add tolls

By Melissa Ayala
Daily Texan Staff

A new proposal may alleviate some of the notorious Interstate Highway 35 congestion in Central Texas.

The Interstate 35 Corridor Advisory Committee proposed switching I-35 with State Highway 130 to relieve congestion during a Texas Department of Transportation meeting. It also recommended adding a high occupancy vehicle lane and a tollway to I-35 and removing tolls from SH 130 and 45 Southeast.

The Texas Transportation Commission created the Corridor Advisory Committee in 2008 after demands for increased citizen participation in the corridor's development. The My 35 Plan proposal divides the Texas I-35 corridor into four segments with near-, mid- and long-term projects. The Texas Department of Transportation is now in the process of reviewing the committee recommendations.

"The advisory committee was responsible for going out and holding public meetings about the needs that a particular community or area wanted for I-35," said TxDOT spokeswoman Kelli Petras. "Each segment committee tackled a smaller area tied together with their local communities."

On Thursday, the committee recommended the addition of a 69-mile HOV lane and tollway going each direction on I-35, from SH 45 SE to Interstate 10. It would occur within 10 to 20 years and cost between \$6.2 and \$8.85 billion.

According to a TxDOT statement, in 2009 the Texas Transportation Commission committed approximately \$1 billion to Proposition 12, a highway improvement fund, and nearly \$135 million in federal stimulus funding to expand I-35 to six main lanes between San Antonio and



Illustration by Veronica Rosalez | Daily Texan Staff

As a proposal to expand the I-35 corridor circulates, areas of unfinished expansion serve as reminders of what happens when projects go unfinished.



Ryan Propes
Daily Texan Staff

the I-35 east-west split in Hillsboro. Most of the funds have been exhausted, but Petras said Proposition 12 may fund some near-term projects if they are approved.

"It's not like we can just go out to

I-35 and expand it to 10 lanes if we wanted to," Petras said. "[I-35] has a very confined area with businesses."

Ross Milloy, Austin-San Antonio

HIGHWAY continues on PAGE 2

Undocumented immigrant numbers increase

By Marty McAndrews
Daily Texan Staff

About 11.2 million undocumented immigrants lived in the United States in 2010 — up from 11.1 million in 2009 — according to a Pew Hispanic Center report.

The nonpartisan Washington, D.C., research group also found the number of undocumented workers — 8 million by its count — was unchanged from 2009, despite national and state-specific efforts

to halt and reverse illegal immigration. The annual survey was made publicly accessible Tuesday.

"There are two kinds of issues facing immigrants right now," said Neil Foley, associate professor of history and expert on immigration. "The first is that we're in the grips of the great recession right now, and the U.S. economy is not able to absorb as many workers as it once could. Immigrants come to the U.S. to work, so it's no surprise that the numbers haven't

climbed. It doesn't help that states are passing or attempting to pass laws that curtail the rights of immigrants."

Despite declines in key states like Florida, New York and Arizona, the immigrant population in Texas grew from 2007 to 2010.

"Texas is one of the leading states in the creation of jobs for the recovery of the great recession," Foley said.

BORDER continues on PAGE 2

Teach For America affords alumni chance to give back

By Ahsika Sanders
Daily Texan Staff

In June, Charles Graham Jr. will leave his job at an Austin law firm and move almost 2,000 miles to Philadelphia to embark on a new teaching career.

Graham, who received his government degree in December, will spend his first summer as a UT alumnus training for Teach For America.

According to Teach For America, a program that signs recent college graduates to two-

year teaching commitments at underprivileged schools, more of the program's teachers came from UT than any of the other 630 institutions in 2010.

Graham said he is excited to be a part of such a competitive institution, which accepts about 4,500 of its 46,000 applicants.

"I always said that I wouldn't be a teacher," he said. "When I decided to be a government major, people would ask, 'What are you going to do, become a government teacher?' and I always answered no."

Graham is not unusual — one in six of the program's participants say they never considered education before joining the Teach For America corps. He said he is looking forward to learning about how to improve the nation's education system and hopes to take his teaching experience with him long after his two-year commitment.

"My long-term goal is to work in education policy, and I saw this program as a way to get in the classroom and see some of the problems of the

education system firsthand," he said. "I saw Teach For America as an opportunity to give back and reach future generations."

Graham plans to attend graduate school after his two-year commitment ends, which

TEACH continues on PAGE 2

DEADLINE

The deadline to apply for Teach For America is Friday, Feb. 4. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org.



University power plant guards against blackout

By Huma Munir
Daily Texan Staff

Colleges across Texas closed Wednesday after severe weather conditions led to controlled rolling blackouts, but UT remained open because it generates its own power.

The Energy Reliability Council of Texas, which manages the majority of electricity in Texas, instructed state energy companies Wednesday to start rotating power outages to make up for the imbalance between the amount of energy being generated and the amount of energy being consumed.

The University of Texas at Arlington, Texas State University and the University of Texas-Pan American were among the schools closed. Austin Independent School District released a press statement reporting the cancellation of all after-school activities.

The rotating outag-

es, which usually last between 10 and 45 minutes according to the Energy Reliability Council, did not affect UT because the Hal C. Weaver Power Plant supplies all the power the University needs.

"We operate our own little grid," said Kevin Kuretech, power plant associate director. "For situations like this, it is more reliable."

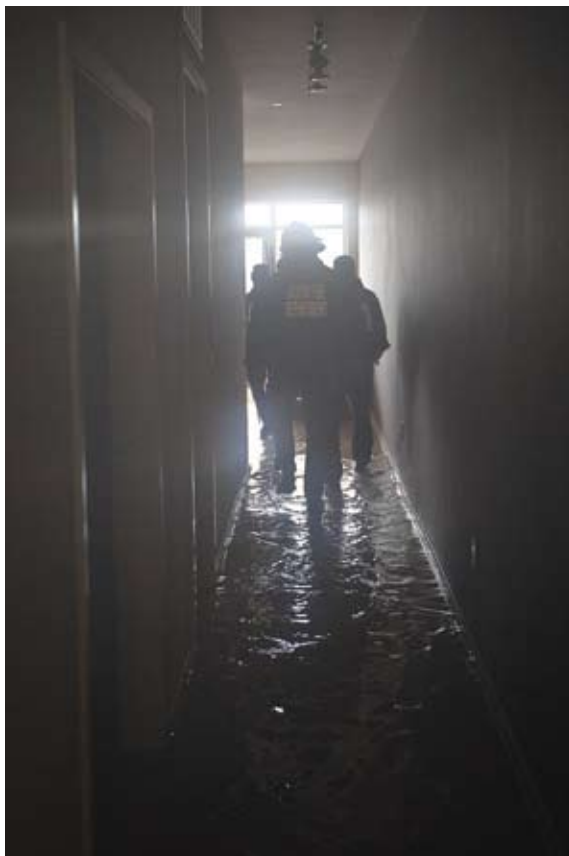
Austin Energy spokesman Ed Clark said the city has to reduce the amount of energy used in order to meet the statewide emergency operation requirements.

"That requires us to shut down 20 to 25 circuits at a time, which serve 60,000-70,000 customers," Clark said.

The location of the power outage is determined by utilities such as Austin Energy that provide electricity to residents in and around

WEATHER continues on PAGE 2

INSIDE: Check out winter fashion ideas on page 12



Ryan Propes | Daily Texan Staff

Firefighters work diligently to salvage residents' property after a pipe froze and burst in the SoCo Lofts development on South Congress Avenue.

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High **31** Low **23**

It's the %**#! tea!

CORRECTIONS

Because of a reporting error, Tuesday's Page 1 news story about assistant coach salaries should have said the defensive coordinator is the only one to be paid less this year than last year.

Because of a reporting error, Tuesday's Page 1 news story about students studying abroad in Egypt should have said Robin Gerrow was the vice president of public affairs.



Erika Rich | Daily Texan Staff

About 900 homeless Austinites sought shelter at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless on Wednesday because of the extremely cold temperatures. In light of the freezing weather, many shelters allowed people to stay longer than usual.

University contributes high number of volunteers to Peace Corps

By Emily Sides
Daily Texan Staff

UT-Austin ranks No. 11 in Peace Corps volunteers in the large school category, with 77 alumni serving on five continents, according to a Peace Corps press release.

On the 50th anniversary of the global service program, UT ranks No. 1 in the Southwest, accord-

ing to the UT recruitment office. More than 4,000 former volunteers live in Texas.

"When I got back [to the U.S. from Armenia], I was overwhelmed at all the choices at American grocery stores," said Ben Callaway, UT Peace Corps recruiter. "I was used to going to a small shack and buying rice."

More than 14,000 people ap-

ply each year for more than 7,000 positions in agriculture, business, information and communication technologies, education, environment, health and HIV/AIDS and youth and community development. Spanish and French are the most needed languages among applicants. Students who participate may have options to alleviate stu-

dent loan debt by deferring payment or cancelling a percentage of the debt.

"Science and basic health knowledge is such an important topic, but it's not taught very well," said Jen Taylor, a UT alumna who is applying to the Peace Corps. "I feel like I've had a very blessed life, and I want to do something meaningful."

UT government professor Bruce Buchanan said the Peace Corps is an enduring legacy from John Kennedy that shows the impact of American idealism.

"It's putting American people to work on serious problems by people who are in significant need," he said. "It's great public relations for the U.S. and great experience for students."

HIGHWAY continues from PAGE 1

Corridor Council president and advisory committee member, said another key suggestion was developing a freight rail to alleviate the number of freight trucks on I-35, which has been increasing since the North American Free Trade Agreement was passed in 1994.

Milloy said the Federal Highway Administration did a study of I-35 in 1999. The Austin corridor was the most congested portion of the entire highway, according to the study. I-35 runs 1,565 miles from Laredo, Texas, to Duluth, Minn.

He said cars would move at a consistent speed if a toll was implemented. TxDOT tolls are transitioning to an all-electronic process, eliminating the need for toll booths.

"The thrust in all of this is to keep I-35 flowing," Milloy said. "These are mechanisms by which you can regulate traffic flow and ensure a minimum speed through at least one lane. We're rapidly approaching a situation on I-35 where you may be looking at gridlock for much of the day."

This initial proposal also suggests adding continuous frontage road, improvements to U.S. 183 and I-10 and constructing outer loops for New Braunfels and San Marcos.

UT associate engineering professor Travis Waller said the proposal addresses problems of the "unusually congested corridor" with innovative and cutting-edge solutions.

"I think it's pretty obvious both as a professional and for anyone that lives in the area that I-35 has continually gotten more congested," Waller said. "Something major has to happen, and it has to occur in multiple integrated projects."

Waller said if transportation is made easier on I-35, it could bring additional economic growth to Austin and alleviate congestion within the city.

BORDER continues from PAGE 1

"Texas has more jobs for more people, not just immigrants."

Foley said the decline in states such as Arizona and the increase in others, such as Texas, can be attributed to interstate movement of unauthorized workers as they seek out favorable localities, not just a decrease in immigration from Mexico, which Pew reports as dropping from 7 million in 2009 to 6.5 million in 2010.

Loren Campos, civil engineering senior and president of the undocumented student activist group, University Leadership Initiative, said these numbers reflect the inefficiency of the government's decision to counter immigration with attrition. The policy of attrition makes life difficult for immigrants so that

they will choose to leave of their own accord.

"We want to urge our legislature to work on comprehensive common sense legislation to ensure the safety of our country and also to integrate those 11.2 million," Campos said.

Tyler Norris, government senior and chairman of the Young Conservatives of Texas, said he also recognized a failure, especially in the attempts to close the southern border.

This need increases as violence increases in Mexico, Norris said. He is not surprised by the increase in the number of immigrants.

"I didn't expect this administration to do anything but pay lip service to the immigration problem as

other administrations have done before," Norris said.

For the law enforcement arm of Texas government, these numbers are of no concern, said Maj. Mark Sawa from the Travis County Sheriff's Office.

"We have no interest in enforcing immigration laws," Sawa said. "Immigration laws are enforced by federal agents, and we do not nor ever have we enforced immigration laws. We enforce the laws of Texas, and those responsibilities keep us very, very busy."

Roger Wade, the Travis County Sheriff's Office public information officer, said his office will not participate in the 287(g) program, which trains deputies to enforce the federal immigration code.

TEACH continues from PAGE 1

some critics of the program argue could be problematic.

Some criticize the program because its participants leave the classroom after their commitment is up and pursue other careers, said assistant education professor Julian Heilig.

"In its initial conception, it's a fantastic idea, because they are trying to get high-quality teachers to students that our nation has left behind," Heilig said. "The problem is that they attract teachers to those schools, but they can't keep them there."

Heilig argued the program functions as a "temporary agency" and "perpetuates the cycle" of under-qualified teachers in underprivileged schools.

"I think the criticisms would melt away if their members would

make five-year commitments instead of two, but this is just a stop-over for most kids," he said.

A 2008-09 Urban Institute study shows that corps members have positively impacted student achievement as first- and second-year teachers, said program spokeswoman Kaitlin Gastrock.

"Our alumni, inspired by their two-year teaching experience, become lifelong leaders in a variety of professional fields in their effort to expand opportunities for kids growing up in low-income communities," Gastrock said.

Etherial Edetan, a UT alumna and current corps member in Atlanta, has taught kindergarten and first grade since joining the program in 2009. In May, she will spend her final days in the classroom but not in

the field of education.

"I'm going to continue working in education in some kind of way, but I don't think I can be the strongest advocate of education by staying in the classroom," she said. "I think I need to go outside of the classroom to make effective improvements."

Graham said he hopes to instill "confidence and a love for learning" into his Philadelphia elementary students. The program will provide him with weeks of training, preparation for his teacher certification test and relocation funds. Then he will be off to his classroom.

"I know it's going to be a hard job, and I think that if I can do this, then I can do anything," Graham said. "I'm not going to shy away from the challenge. Actually, I'm looking forward to it."

THE DAILY TEXAN

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MANAGEMENT

WEATHER continues from PAGE 1

the Austin area.

Economics sophomore Tyler Rohde said the rolling blackouts prevented him from getting his work done.

"I am usually stretched for time during the day because I do a lot and with 30 minutes out, that's a lot of typing I could have gotten done," Rohde said.

Although the rotating outages ceased Wednesday afternoon, the Energy Reliability Council recommended residents conserve as much power as possible and said in a press release that rolling blackouts are a "strong possibility" today.

National Weather Service meteorologist Mark Lenz said he predicts a 30-percent chance of

snow in Austin from Thursday night to early Friday morning.

"On Thursday, we are looking at mostly cloudy, high near 30 Fahrenheit, north wind 15 miles per hour [and] a chance of snow flurries in the afternoon," Lenz said.

Lenz said there is little chance of precipitation as the weekend rolls around, with high temperatures expected in the 50s or 60s Fahrenheit. It is important for people to stay aware of the latest weather updates because another arctic front is moving into the Austin area, Lenz said.

"People who plan on being outside [for extensive amounts of time] need to dress in layers," Lenz said.

NEWS BRIEFLY

Northeastern Australia struck, battered by powerful cyclone

CAIRNS — A massive cyclone struck northeastern Australia early Thursday, tearing off roofs, toppling trees and cutting electricity to thousands — the most powerful storm to hit the area in nearly a century.

The eye of Cyclone Yasi roared ashore at the small resort town of Mission Beach in Queensland state, battering the coast known as the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef with heavy rain and howling winds gusting to 186 mph.

The extent of property damage across Queensland was unknown just before dawn because it was still too dangerous to venture very far outside homes and evacuation centers, with strong winds and torrential rain continuing to batter towns.

—The Associated Press

Agreement prevents false tax returns from federal prisoners

ALBANY, N.Y. — A new agreement aims to stop federal prisoners from filing for and collecting millions of dollars in bogus tax refunds from their cells.

Pressure from U.S. senators in New York, Ohio, Minnesota and Florida in January led to an agreement signed Wednesday between the Internal Revenue Service and the federal Bureau of Prisons to break down bureaucratic and regulatory barriers to end the practice. The memorandum of understanding struck between the two agencies overcomes legal obstacles to their efforts and paves the way for states to make similar agreements that apply to their prisons.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota said the agreement effectively cuts through red tape to “stop felons from scamming the system.”

—The Associated Press



A pro-government demonstrator and anti-government protester argue in Tahrir Square, the center of anti-government demonstrations, Wednesday. Several thousand supporters of President Hosni Mubarak, including some riding horses and camels and wielding whips, clashed with anti-government protesters.

Laurent Cipriani
Associated Press

Supporters of Egyptian president respond to protests with violence

By Hadeel Al-Shalchi
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Supporters of President Hosni Mubarak charged into Cairo's central square Wednesday on horses and camels brandishing whips while others rained firebombs from rooftops in what appeared to be an orchestrated assault against protesters trying to topple Egypt's leader of 30 years. Three people died and 600 were injured.

The protesters accused Mubarak's regime of unleashing a force of paid thugs and plainclothes police to crush their unprecedented nine-day-old movement.

The clashes marked a dangerous new phase in Egypt's upheaval: the first significant violence between government supporters and opponents.

Some of the worst street battles raged near the Egyptian Museum at the edge of the square. Pro-government rioters blanketed the rooftops of nearby buildings and hurled bricks and firebombs onto the crowd below — in the process setting a tree ablaze inside the museum grounds. Plainclothes police at the building entrances prevented anti-Mubarak protesters from storming up to stop them.

The two sides pummeled each other with chunks of concrete and bottles at each of the six entrances to the sprawling plaza, where 10,000 anti-Mubarak protesters tried to fend off more than 3,000 attackers who besieged them. Some on the pro-government side waved machetes, while the square's defenders filled the air with a ringing battlefield din by banging metal fences with sticks.

In one almost medieval scene, a small contingent of pro-Mubarak forces on horseback and camels rushed into the anti-government crowds, trampling several people and swinging whips and sticks. Protesters dragged some riders from their mounts, throwing them to the ground and beating their faces bloody. The horses and camels appeared to be ones used to give tourists rides around Cairo.

The protesters used a subway station as a makeshift prison for the attackers they managed to catch. They tied the hands and legs of their prisoners and locked them inside.

The battle lines at each of the entrances surged back and forth for hours. Each side's fighters stretched across the width of the four-lane divided boulevard, hiding behind abandoned trucks and holding sheets of corrugated metal as shields from the hail of stones.

Wednesday's events suggest the regime aims to put an end to the unrest to let Mubarak shape the transition as he chooses over the next months. Mubarak has offered negotiations with protest leaders, but they have refused any talks until he steps down.

As if to show the public the crisis was ending, the government began to reinstate Internet service after days of an unprecedented cutoff, and State TV announced the easing of a nighttime curfew.

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THE BUYS OF TEXAS

COLLEGE JUST GOT CHEAPER

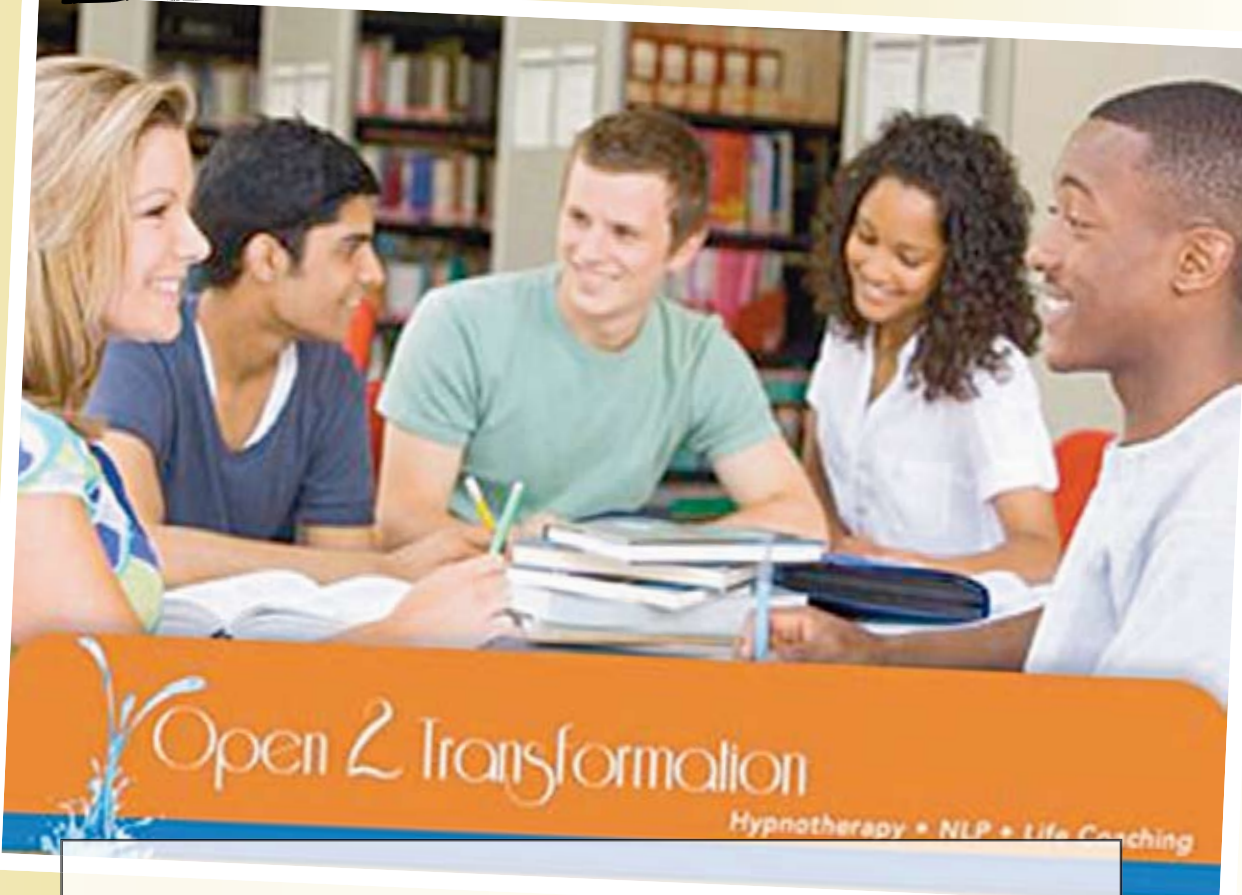
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OVERVIEW

A never-ending deficit?

In case you haven't heard enough bad news about the budget, here's another nugget: The budget woes will never end.

Perhaps "never" is an exaggeration, but the news from the office of Comptroller Susan Combs is that a \$10-billion budget shortfall will reappear session after session until legislators get their acts together. It's called a structural deficit, and we can blame it on the underperforming business tax and the costly 2006 property tax swap, according to the Austin American-Statesman. The failure of the business tax is costing \$2 billion per year, and the property tax is losing us \$1 million annually.

So even when the economic downturn is finished, there could still be some budget issues — and that means instead of just swinging the budget ax over and over and cutting funds to public education and mental health care, legislators need to come up with a way to generate revenue. You know, like raising taxes. Or legalizing gambling. But nothing could be so loathsome to a Republican lawmaker's ear. So far, their plan is to just keep cutting and cutting and cutting.

More money for UT athletics

Given UT's obsession with football, it should surprise absolutely no one that Mack Brown will give \$3.7 million in raises to his mostly-new coaching staff this year.

Why wouldn't eight of his nine assistant coaches deserve bonuses? They'll do such great work out there on the football field, teaching those boys how to run and tackle or whatever. At least, that's what we're assuming, since six of them have never even coached here, but let's give them the benefit of the doubt.

It's not like we're in a recession. Or suffering through state-imposed budget cuts. Or proposing to gut our ethnic and gender studies centers. Everything is just fine in the burnt orange land of UT, and our only concern is more football.

At a press conference, Brown defended the raises, as if he had to.

"I thought we got exactly what we wanted. I think we got the best coaches possible for Texas," Brown said. Texas fight!

The backlash against the raises is so predictable: All those people who care about academics at UT will be so angry that Mack & Co. are rolling in dough while students are being forced to graduate late because required classes have filled up. But look on the bright side. You can attend more football games during your extra semester.

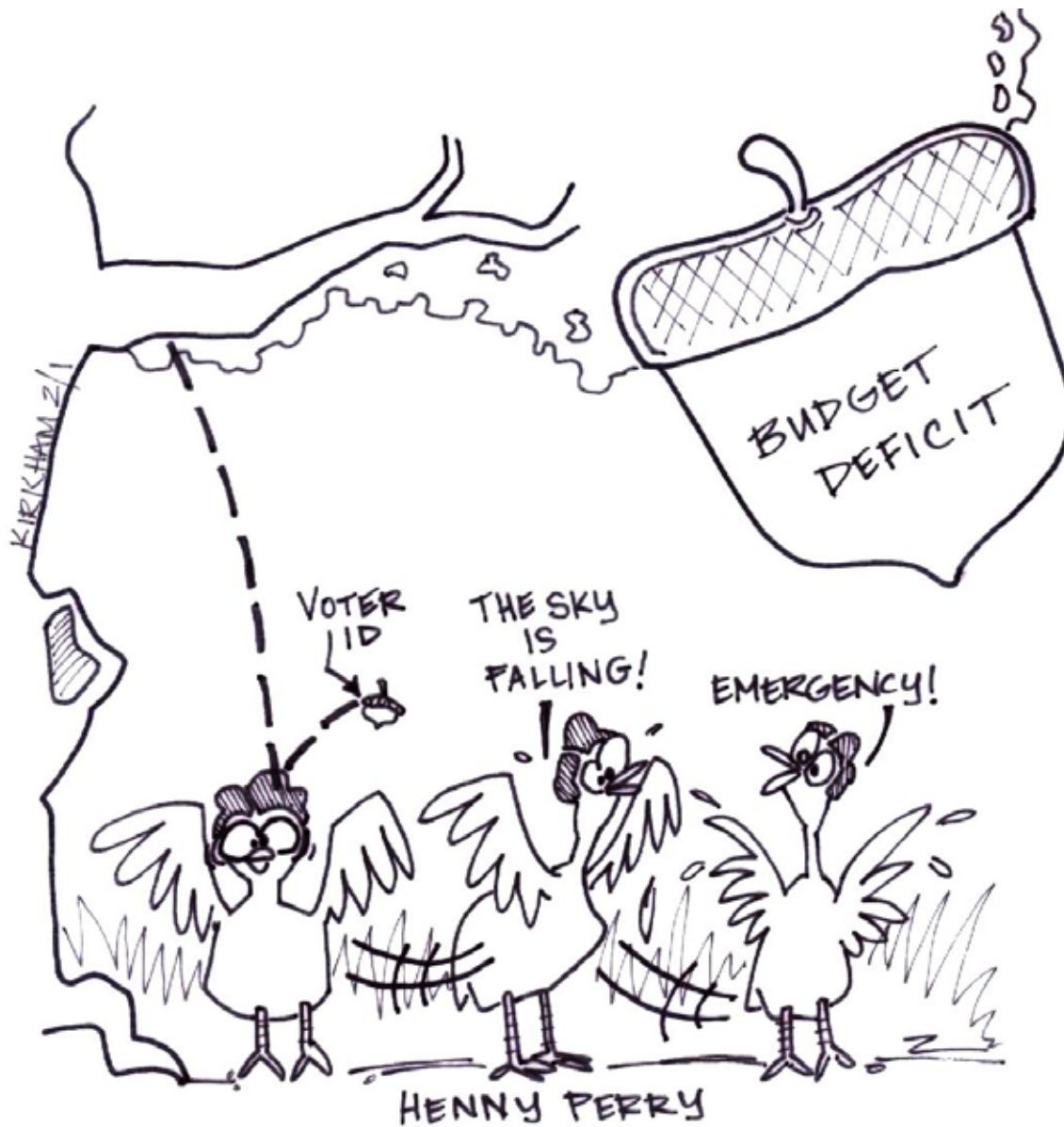
Besides, nerds, UT athletics was totally generous and handed out a full \$5 million last year to academics. It made \$143 million in the 2009-10 school year, so you guys should be pretty happy about its generosity. And athletics gives a whopping 10 percent of its licensing revenues back to the school. Ten percent! That's like a whole tithe.

Sure, President William Powers Jr. was quoted in the Austin American-Statesman on Wednesday as saying that budget cuts are threatening UT's "first-class" university status, but let's not lose sight of what's really important: football.

LEGALESE

Opinions expressed in The Daily Texan are those of the editor, the Editorial Board or the writer of the article. They are not necessarily those of the UT administration, the Board of Regents or the Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees.

GALLERY



Dear Texas, don't ruin voting

By Michael Hurta
Daily Texan Guest Columnist

On election days, pesky students shout at you as you pass through the West Mall, hoping their pestering will lead you to vote. Some of you are groggy, having just woken up and darting to class. You barely remembered your homework before you walked out of the door, much less an ID.

In such circumstances, you should go home after that boring biology lecture, pick up something to prove you are who you are and then go to your polling location. And vote. But that scarcely happens — I know because I'm one of those annoying election day politicians. The statistics on how often we vote, meanwhile, look equally dismal.

I support this paper's editorial position against the voter ID bill, SB 14, which recently passed through the Texas Senate, but the House will ignore The Daily Texan here. The bill's proponents are too numerous, and they're armed with a reasonable argument. They have a noble goal: to enhance the safeguards to democracy, insisting that current law does not adequately protect against voter fraud. Ideal democracies, however, also allow easy ac-

cess to their citizens, but the current version of SB 14 creates hassles aplenty for the Texas voter.

What can you use as proof of identification? You may present your driver's license, personal identification card or concealed handgun license — so long as the Department of Public Safety issued it to you. If you've traveled abroad, you probably have a U.S. passport, which would work. And two other documents pass: a U.S. citizenship certificate or a U.S. military ID card, so long as they include your photo. Oh yeah, your proof of identification would no longer prove your identification if it expires.

The short list leaves out two forms of ID that many students rely upon. A UT ID would fail, even though it includes a photo and is distributed by a Texas agency. Non-Texas driver's licenses won't pass either.

To top off the major inconveniences, legal experts say voters might get turned away if their "acceptable form of photo identification" has an address other than their voter registration address. So, if your driver's license lists your parents' Dallas home but you decided to vote in Austin, you might be out of luck. During Senate hearings, activists asked for clari-

fication with this potential problem but received no useful information. Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, offered an amendment to require that the Voter ID only be used as that — to identify the voter (without consideration of his or her address). The Senate rejected the amendment.

Thousands of UT student voters, if not most of them, might lack proper identification to vote under Senate Bill 14.

That's a sham and a mockery of our democracy.

Luckily, the House of Representatives may still amend Senate Bill 14. Let us hope that it does. For starters, representatives should consider Van de Putte's amendment or similar changes. Then, allow more documentation; what about any state-issued photo ID (including our student ones)? Appreciation would follow anything easing the difficulties currently imposed by this bill. In a country that depends on democracy, choosing whom to vote for should be a hard and thought-provoking decision, but voting itself should be easy. Dear Texas: don't ruin it.

Hurta is a government senior.

GALLERY



Write for the Texan

By You
Daily Texan Columnist

Have something to say? Say it in print — and to the entire campus.

The Daily Texan Editorial Board is currently accepting applications for columnists and cartoonists. We're looking for talented writers and artists to provide as much diversity of opinion as possible. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to apply.

Writing for the Texan is a great way to get your voice heard. Our columnists' and reporters' work is often syndicated nationwide, and every issue of the Texan is a historical document archived at the Center for American History.

Barack Obama may not be a frequent reader, but a copy of the Texan runs across UT President William Powers Jr.'s desk each day, and the opinions on this page have great potential to affect University policy.

Your words can be here.

If interested, please come to the Texan office at 25th and Whitis streets to complete an application form and sign up for an interview time. If you have any additional questions, please

contact Lauren Winchester at (512) 232-2212 or editor@dailytexanonline.com.

You can be a Daily Texan columnist or cartoonist.

Respected reporter, editor remembered

By **Marty McAndrews**
Daily Texan Staff

Sam Kinch Jr., Dallas Morning News reporter and former editor for The Daily Texan, died Tuesday. Kinch, 70, suffered from pancreatic cancer.

Austin American-Statesman columnist Dave McNeely remembers his 50-year-long friendship with Kinch, which began at the offices of The Daily Texan.

“He became editor in 1962. The next year, he had me covering Texas Legislature,” said McNeely, whose column on Texas government and politics is carried in several Texas newspapers. “He was one of three appointed editors that year. He was the first; I was the second. I wouldn’t be covering Texas politics today if it weren’t for him.”

McNeely and Kinch continued their friendship well into their professional and personal lives. When Kinch was living and working in Washington, D.C., McNeely earned a Congressional Fellowship that brought him and his family to D.C. across the courtyard from Kinch and his family.

“We would go on family outings together: me, my wife and my three daughters, and him and his wife and children,” McNeely said.

The pair reunited again in the Texas press corps, Kinch with The Dallas Morning News and McNeely with the Austin American-Statesman.

McNeely said he remembers

Kinch’s irreverence, work ethic, outgoing personality and dedication to his field.

“He very much believed in the notion that journalism was integral to running a democracy, that this is how a people should govern themselves,” McNeely said.

Kinch also founded Texas Weekly, an influential newsletter on Texas politics. In 1998, Kinch sold the weekly to Ross Ramsey, managing editor of the Texas Tribune and concurrent editor of Texas Weekly.

“Sam was something of a one-man show,” Ramsey said. “Since his work with the Texan, he had a future in journalism. We would always see each other in the press corps where we got to know one another, and then he became a great reporter in Dallas.”

Kinch also authored “Texas Under a Cloud,” the first book about the 1972 Sharpstown stock fraud and banking scandal that rattled the Texas government.

S. Griffin Singer, senior lecturer at the journalism school, remembers Kinch from when they worked together at The Dallas Morning News, where Kinch was a part of the Austin bureau while Singer was on the metro desk.

“Sam’s dad was a longtime Capitol Bureau reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram,” Singer said of Sam Kinch Sr. “Like father, like son.”

Kinch is survived by his wife, Lilas, his two sons, Sean and Ashby, his daughter Keary and six grandchildren.

Reporter and former Daily Texan editor Sam Kinch Jr. is remembered by colleagues after dying from pancreatic cancer Tuesday.



Courtesy of the Kinch family

FORAGING BEFORE THE FREEZE



Jose Lopez harvests the neglected pecan crop at the corner of West Sixth Street and Oakland Avenue outside a pair of design boutiques despite the freezing weather. He uses a hat to carry the haul of pecans.

Ryan Propes
Daily Texan Staff

Students protest community college cuts at Capitol

By **Huma Munir**
Daily Texan Staff

Temperatures in the teens and strong winds didn’t stop the crowd of more than 500 students that rallied at the Capitol in response to the proposed 30-percent budget cuts for community colleges in Texas.

“We have 50 community college districts, and this will impact all of them,” said Dr. Reynaldo Garcia, president of the Texas Association of Community Colleges.

Students and faculty members wore buttons contrasting the 30-percent budget cut with the 20-percent increase in the enrollment rate at community colleges.

Spokesman for the association Steven Johnson said the aim of the event was to create awareness of the role that community colleges play in higher education and an opportuni-

ty for students to speak to the Legislature about how the budget cuts are affecting them.

“The other concern is that the budget shortfall cuts employee health care reimbursement significantly, and it cuts retirement, which is going to impact faculty and the ability for colleges to both hire and retain new faculty,” Johnson said.

Rep. Dan Branch, R-Dallas, spoke about what legislatures are doing for community colleges in Texas.

“The muscles of higher education are our community colleges,” Branch said.

With 800,000 students enrolled in community college across Texas, Branch said they are going to watch the budget cuts closely and work with their local communities.

“We are going to try and get enough funding so you still have quality faculty and curriculum in place,” Branch said.

Tanner Dewald, vice president of off-campus activities at Blinn College in College Station, addressed the students and said their legislatures know about the impact community colleges have on the state’s economy.

“We are here to personalize that data. We are here to make it more than just about numbers,” Dewald said.

Froylan Silva, financial aid adviser at Victoria College, said one-third of their students rely on some sort of financial aid. He said the budget cuts warrant many serious dilemmas for students.

“Obviously, taxes have to be raised, and the tuition has to be raised. It affects not only the college but it reflects negatively on the community,” Silva said.

Dustin Kinsey, a general studies major at Southwest Texas Junior College, said some students don’t have any options other than to attend a community college.

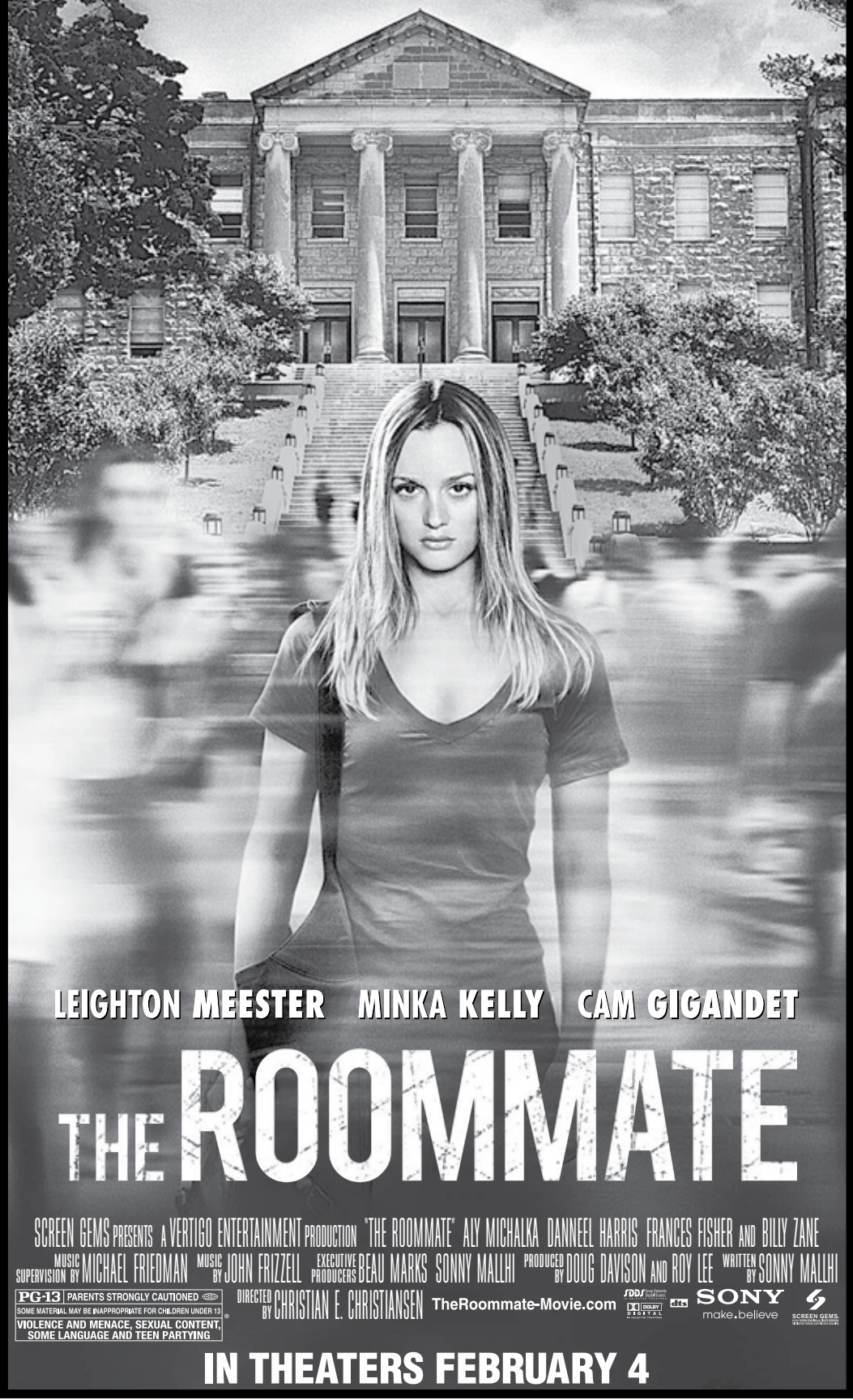
“If they cut the budget at our school, half of our [students] can’t attend anymore because majority of them are on financial aid of some sort,” he said.

John E. Roueche, director of the Community College Leadership Program at UT, said many community college leaders believe that the current budget cut being proposed penalizes the institutions unfairly, a contrast to a demand from the state to increase enrollment at community colleges.

However, the budget cut will drastically impact the enrollment rate, requiring efforts from a variety of groups, he said.

“Our own UT System is working diligently to increase the number of transfer students from community colleges to all the campuses in the UT system,” Roueche said.

2,000 COLLEGES. 8 MILLION ROOMMATES.
WHICH ONE WILL YOU GET?



Outstanding Student and Cactus Goodfellow Awards

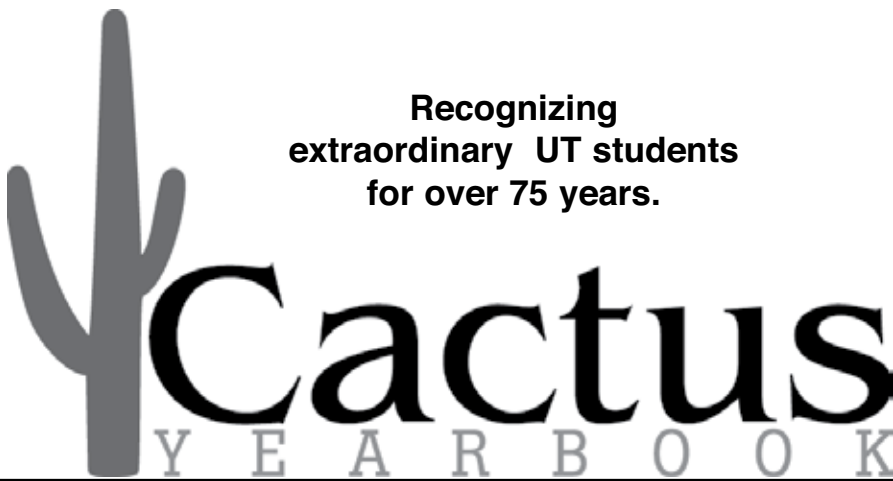
The Cactus Yearbook is soliciting nominations for their Outstanding Student and Cactus Goodfellow Awards. For your convenience, we have placed the nomination forms on the Cactus web page:

<http://www.utexas.edu/tsm/media/cactus/>

All rules and instructions are included, so all you have to do is either print the nomination form or pick up one at the William Randolph Hearst Building (HSM), 25th and Whitis Avenue, Room 3.304.

The deadline for nominations is Feb. 25th.

Send us your applications today!
If you have any questions, please call 471-1084 for more information.





Courtesy of the Harry Ransom Center

This photo of the interior view of an office located in the old Nueces County Courthouse is part of the Harry Ransom Center's Itinerant Photographer collection that contains photos documenting the Great Depression in Corpus Christi.

Snapshots reveal 'slice of history'

By Mary Ellen Knewtson
Daily Texan Staff

A traveling photographer with an unknown identity captured Great Depression-era Corpus Christi in a set of 473 photographs that the Harry Ransom Center has been unveiling over the past two months.

The TexTreasures grant funded the effort to convert the previously inaccessible glass negatives of 1934 Corpus Christi businesses into a digital format viewable by the public, said photography curator David Coleman. They were previously too fragile to display, he said.

"On a broad scale, they represent this tremendous slice of history, almost like a time capsule," Coleman said.

A photographer donated the negatives to the Ransom Center after another Corpus Christi photographer gave them to him, Coleman said. He said the collection was shot in about a month, which makes it unusual compared to other collections of the era, which were formed

over a longer span of time.

"There's a real art to display in some of these places," Coleman said. "You can really see what life was like back then. A lot of things are very similar to now."

While the photographer's name is not known, photographic archivist Mary Alice Harper said the lifestyle typical of a traveling photographer allowed them to be independent financially and personally.

"It was very appealing to some people," she said. "To pack all your gear and drive all over the country with no boss, no time card to punch."

Harper said that this photographer made a living by arriving at businesses in the town, taking pictures and offering to sell prints to business owners. Because of the impromptu style in which the photographer worked, his photos portrayed life truthfully, she said.

"No one had time to clean up," she said.

Since the images have been digi-

tized, Harper said Corpus Christi residents have been able to call the Harry Ransom Center and help identify buildings and their relatives.

Harper expects many kinds of scholars to appreciate the new availability of these pictures, including those interested in the history of Corpus Christi, American studies or the Great Depression.

After viewing the collection, history professor Emilio Zamora said the photographs provide an abundance of historical information.

"The images underscore the fact that Corpus had either already recovered or that they did not suffer like the rest of the country," he said. "No two locations are going to manifest the same effects."

He cited the evidence of agriculture, grocery, dry goods and automobile stores as signs of a healthy business environment. These signs did not surprise him, he said, because of the robust regional economy centered on farming cotton.

City of Austin tops 'Best of' awards

By Mary Molly Moore
Daily Texan Staff

Austin was selected as "one of the best places to live and work in the U.S." by Business Review USA.

Austin has been the belle of the media ball, named the Best Performing Metro in the Recovery by the Brookings Institute, sixth Smartest City in the Nation by CNNMoney and one of eight cities selected by Business Review USA as the Best Places to Live and Work, to name a few.

"But really, the big story is Texas," said Louise Epstein, the entrepreneur in residence at the McCombs School of Business.

Epstein cites Texas' right to work and lack of a personal income tax as reasons why the state has continued to prosper. Couple those with the job cushion provided by the presence of the government and a vibrant cultural scene, and it becomes clear why Austin is at the forefront of an already powerful state.

"If it were just a beautiful city, we'd be San Francisco," she said. "Whereas in Texas, you have a highly diverse economic sector."

This call for diversity first rang in 1986, when an economic slump coerced the move from an oil-and-real-estate to a technology-based economy. But with the dot-com burst in early 2000, it became apparent there was still work to be done.

"The idea was to diversify the business sector as well as within the tech sector itself, placing more emphasis on clean energy, biomedical research and recently the development of medical devices," said Beverly Kerr, the vice president of research at the Austin Chamber of Commerce. "That's also when the business community decided that a concentrated effort on economic development was necessary."

The next move of the Chamber was to set up a marketing team who would begin work on branding Austin as a desirable place to do business.

"If we are raised in the media's consciousness, we are raised in the

business consciousness, which is important if a company is looking to move," Kerr said.

Many have. Giants like Dell, Google, Whole Foods, Apple and, most recently, Facebook have established offices here. Also booming are small businesses, which in defiance of tradition, share a symbiotic relationship with the corporations.

"In fact, they are the incubators of great minds," Epstein said. "Often, our Fortune 500 companies draw the talent to Austin, and then once they are in this creative, lucrative environment, they are able to come up with business ideas of their own."

But there is more to Austin than just low unemployment rates.

"The energy of Austin — both warm and vibrant — the music, the outdoors, the laid-back friendliness of the people all make Austin a place I'd never want to leave," said Laura Lewis, a studio art freshman at UT.

"You can get a job anywhere, but anywhere is not Austin," Epstein said.

Grad student wins renewable energy award

By Victoria Pagan
Daily Texan Staff

A UT graduate student was awarded one of six scholarships that provide opportunities for students who show interest in the renewable energy and biofuels industry.

Julia O'Rourke, a public affairs and engineering graduate student, will attend the 2011 National Ethanol Conference in Phoenix, Ariz., from Feb. 20-22 because she received a scholarship from the Renewable Fuels Association.

"The conference is recognized as the premier gathering arena for delivering accurate, timely information on marketing, legislative and regulatory issues facing the ethanol industry," said Taryn Morgan, spokeswoman for

the association.

O'Rourke is currently taking a policy research project course. As a group, her class is writing a paper that focuses on clean energy, O'Rourke said. Her part in the paper focuses on ethanol in the United States, which inspired her to apply for the scholarship.

"I'm hoping to learn more about the policies that are affecting the ethanol industry so I can contribute to my paper better," O'Rourke said.

This is the second year the association has co-sponsored the scholarships with the Renewable Fuels Foundation as a way to expose students to job opportunities and what the industry has to offer, Morgan said.

The scholarship only covers the registration fee for the conference, O'Rourke said.

Her policy research project course is helping pay for the travel expenses.

"We try to make up the difference so they can have a learning experience," said David Eaton, assisting professor for the course. "These events have the most recent material and most recent information."

O'Rourke said she hopes to see a forecast for the future of the ethanol industry. She wants to speak to officials such as Bob Dinneen, president of the Renewable Fuels Association.

"Different programs that promote ethanol on the federal level are changing," O'Rourke said. "I am hoping to ask him for his spin on the policies he thinks the ethanol industry needs to be able to promote itself and where he sees the industry going."



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Judith Soto | Daily Texan Staff

Economics sophomore Ben Proler meets Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst who spoke at a College Republicans meeting Wednesday night.

Dewhurst speaks with UT Republicans

By Donovan Sanders
Daily Texan Staff

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst addressed the College Republicans at Texas on Wednesday about the future of the state and the role of young conservatives in Texas politics.

As lieutenant governor, Dewhurst serves as the president of the state Senate and has control over which pieces of legislation see the floor. He is also second-in-command to Gov. Rick Perry. College Republicans president Justin May hopes this opportunity will be a chance to learn more about how our Legislature operates.

"To have a public servant like the lieutenant governor come is very important," May said. "His influence over the Senate and the Legislative Budget Board arguably makes him the most powerful elected official in the state."

College Republicans vice president Jessica LaBerge said she hopes that such an important figure will draw attention and bring more students to meetings.

"I would hope that the students in attendance [found] the meeting with Dewhurst informative and maybe even entertaining," LaBerge said. "It's such a wonderful opportunity to hear from such an important statewide official."

When Dewhurst took the floor, he spoke about many of the goals he plans to accomplish during this legislative session and during the next four years. He said Americans can turn the country around by using their heads and free markets.

"We have got to create jobs, reform our Medicaid program, cut spending, create predictability, reach out and build confidence. One thing that is so important is confidence," Dewhurst said.

Following the speech, Dewhurst fielded questions from students and encouraged them to be active and be proud to be Republicans.

"We need great young people to be active and involved," Dewhurst said. "You all are our future."

College Republicans spokesman Saul Mendoza was among the students in attendance.

"He, as well as all our other elected officials, has worked hard to make Texas a great place for small businesses to thrive thanks to its economic climate," Mendoza said.

The event was a success and helped young Republicans at UT gain the perspective of a key political leader in Texas, May said.

"I'm really glad to see how interested he is in the students here on campus," he said. "You can tell he really cares for the voters and small business owners. I'm glad the students got to be involved with this meeting."

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Future Longhorn shines against world in high school All-Star game

By Trey Scott
Daily Texan Staff

National signing day is all about donning ball caps and smiling for the camera, pens, papers and fax machines. It's a day of speculation, projection, and proclamation that takes over ESPN airwaves and Twitter.

But for a day full of football talk, there usually isn't too much pigskin played.

So it was refreshing, albeit a little

strange, to see some brave fans in the stands and a field of blue-chippers play in a signing day nightcap, in miserable 24-degree temperatures.

In a match-up pitting the best high school players from around the world against the United States' finest at Westlake High's Chaparral Stadium, Team USA came out on top, 21-14.

"To share a field with guys from all over the world is great," USA head coach Darren Allman said. "I felt that our players had a great experience."

The game had a distinct Texas feel despite the frozen conditions. Texas commit Joe Bergeron, out of North Mesquite, split the game open midway through the second quarter when he took a fake punt and rum-bled 56 yards for a touchdown. In the third, Bergeron got open in the flat and caught a 13-yard touchdown. He finished with 118 rushing yards and a touchdown on 15 carries, a strong statement made from a guy recruitniks and fans alike tend to for-

get too many chances to show off his hands, only catching one ball. Likewise, Millwood, Okla. cornerback Josh Turner didn't have much of a chance to exhibit his ball skills, though he did force a fumble on a kickoff.

Some other familiar names featured for Team USA should make an impact on the national landscape in the coming years. San Antonio Madison running back Aaron

STARS continues on PAGE 8

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

San Antonio signees make splash for Texas class

The Longhorns ink three from rarely tapped area on final day for recruits to sign

By Sara Beth Purdy
Daily Texan Staff

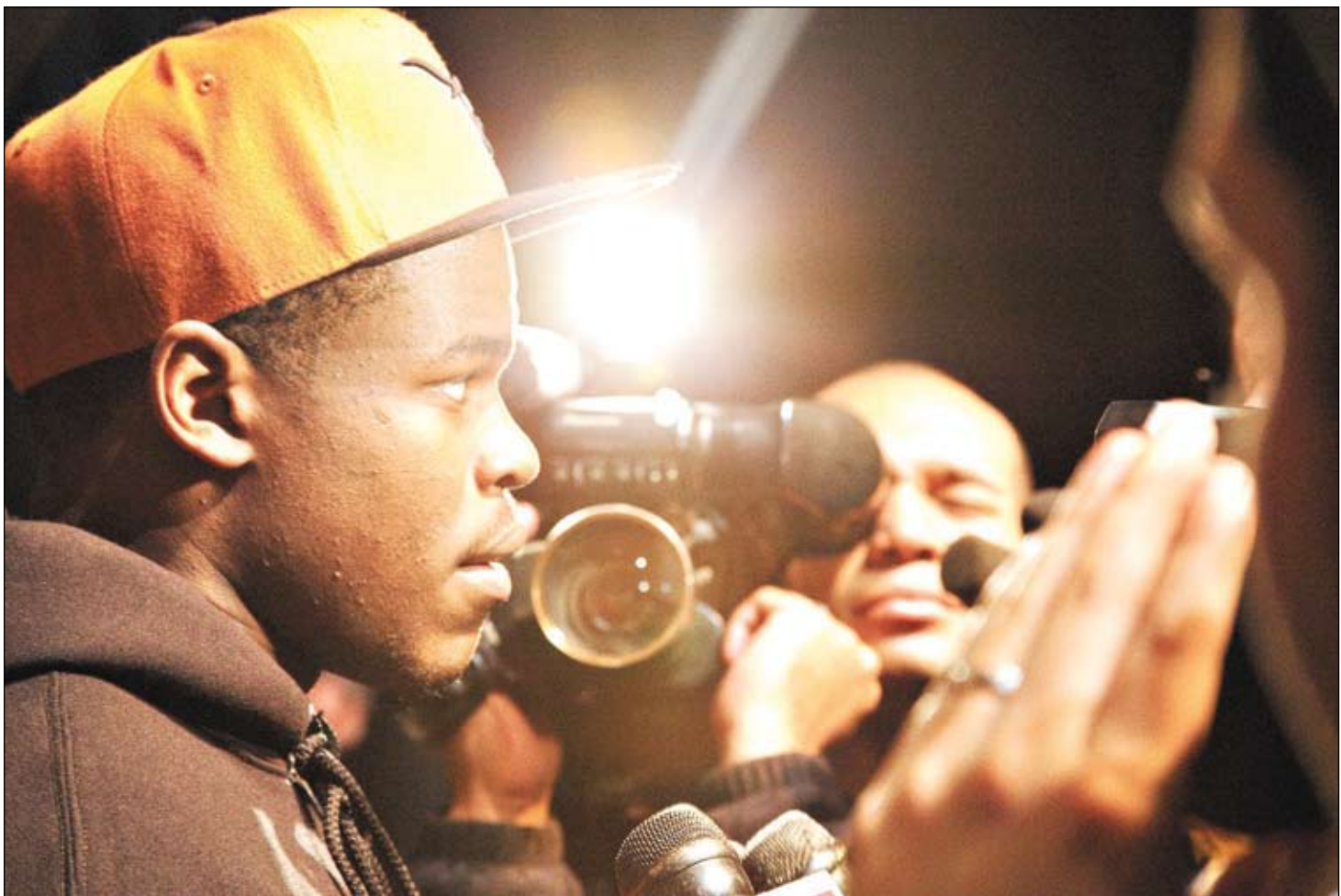
Texas welcomes another top recruiting class this fall, full of players from the Austin, Dallas and Houston areas.

The two major metropolitan areas, plus the state capital, send recruits to the University year in and year out and are usually well represented on the Longhorns' roster. This year, however, another large city will be well represented in the recruiting class — San Antonio.

"Our city [has] grown quite a bit in the last 10 years," said Lee Bridges, head football coach at Stevens High School in San Antonio. "There are a lot more good players here than most people think."

Out of 22 commitments that signed with Texas on Wednesday, three hail from the San Antonio area, a higher number than usual. Malcolm Brown is a five-star recruit from Byron P. Steele High in Cibolo, a small town right outside the San Antonio city limits. Mykkele Thompson was a premier rushing quarterback for Stevens High School in San Antonio. The third San Antonio-area recruit, Quincy Russell, is an agile defensive tackle from Sam Houston High School.

The level of individual performance and team accomplishments has increased over the past 10 years for San Antonio-area



Texas running back recruit Malcolm Brown answers reporters' questions Wednesday after signing with the Longhorns. Brown is Texas' highest-ranked recruit and is the second-rated running back in the nation.

schools. Last season, Byron Steele High School won the 5A Division II State Championship.

"This was a great year for San Antonio football," said Mike Jinks, head coach at Steele. "These kids did a great job ... They did what they needed to do to get a victory."

The champion athletes at Steele are not an anomaly. The level of athleticism there represents the general level of competition across San Antonio.

"It's a lot of competition. There's no football like Texas football," Brown said. "It's been

a hard run. There [are] so many great teams out there [in the San Antonio area] and just to compete with them makes you that much better."

While Brown comes from an award-winning program, Quincy Russell may be the spark his

school needs to produce more scholarship athletes in the years ahead. Russell became the first football player in the history of Sam Houston and the San Antonio Independent School District

TACKLE continues on PAGE 8

Longhorns ready to rebuild defense with fresh recruit

By Will Anderson
Daily Texan Staff

SAN ANTONIO — Moments after Quincy Russell signed his letter of intent to play at the University of Texas next season, the Sam Houston High School cheerleaders — all eight of them, along with the Hurricane mascot — began a chant of "Way to go Quincy, way to go!" as his mother, Clarice Russell, fought back tears during what she called "one of the proudest moments of [her] life."

"I'm so happy that he'll be taken care of up there and that he's going to UT, somewhere close so I can get to him," she said. "It was a long road, but we're here now so all he has to do is go up and show up."

Quincy, a 6-foot-3, 289-pound de-

fensive tackle known for his speed, is the first player head coach Gary Green has sent to a major Football Bowl Subdivision program since taking over at his alma mater of Sam Houston High School, a 3A school in east San Antonio.

"I couldn't be more proud," Green said. "I told Quincy last year, 'You're going to be the first. I knew he was going to be great.'"

The Yahoo! Sports-affiliated recruiting site Rivals.com ranks Russell as the No. 11 defensive tackle nationwide.

In front of his extended family, Russell signed his letter and faxed it to the Texas athletics department Wednesday morning in a ritual re-

RECRUITS continues on PAGE 8



Longhorn defensive tackle recruit Quincy Russell talks to reporters in the halls of Sam Houston High School on Wednesday.

BASEBALL



Houston Street pitched for Texas from 2002-04, closing for the Longhorns as a freshman in their 2002 title run. Street's 41 saves ranks first all-time at Texas, and his 1.31 earned-run average is second best.

Former Texas star headlines list of players in alumni game

By Jon Parrett
Daily Texan Staff

For Huston Street, alumni weekend at Texas is what it's all about. It offers a chance to reminisce with former coaches and teammates, trading the crack of wooden bats for the ping of aluminum ones and running burnt orange base paths. You can almost smell the nostalgia seeping from the dugout.

Saturday was Texas' annual alumni baseball game, in which former Longhorns return to Austin to team up against current players.

Street, who is from Austin and attended Westlake High School, relishes the time he spends in Austin every winter, even if it's only for four months.

"I love being in Austin; it's still home," he said. "I take every minute and try to enjoy it as much as I can."

Street pitched and played third base at Westlake, in addition to playing safety on the football team. In the 2000 Texas state title game, Street tackled then-future Longhorn Cedric Benson, who played at Midland Lee High School.

Street's dad, James Street, played quarterback at Texas and was undefeated as a starter, leading the Long-

STREET continues on PAGE 8

SIDELINE

NCAA BASKETBALL

S

SYRACUSE

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CONNECTICUT

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MISSOURI

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OKLAHOMA STATE

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OKLAHOMA

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LONGHORN SPOTLIGHT

Blair Luna
Position: Pitcher
Height: 5'8"
Class: Sophomore
Hometown: Austin

Sophomore pitcher Blair Luna has been named to the preseason watch list for the 2011 USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Year Award. Luna was a top-10 finalist for the award last season when she was named Big 12 Pitcher and Freshman of the Year. Luna finished the season with 404 strikeouts and 30 wins.

SWIMMER OF THE WEEK

Karlee Bispo
Event: Free
Height: 5'11"
Class: Junior
Hometown: Modesto, Calif.

Junior Karlee Bispo has been named Swimmer of the Week by CollegeSwimming.com. The All-American had seven victories last weekend in Texas' win over Arizona.

Bispo is the second Longhorn recognized as the Swimmer of the Week this season. Sophomore Laura Sogar was also honored with the award in October.

BIG 12 MEN'S BASKETBALL

1	Texas	7-0
2	Kansas	6-1
3	Texas A&M	4-3
4	Oklahoma	4-3
5	Baylor	4-4
6	Colorado	4-4
7	Missouri	3-4
8	Nebraska	3-4
9	Oklahoma State	3-5
10	Kansas State	3-5
11	Texas Tech	3-5
12	Iowa State	1-7



Suchada Sutasirisap | Daily Texan Staff

Texas continues to practice without assistant coach Jim White. White was diagnosed with kidney cancer earlier this season and hopes to return to the team later in the year.

Coach diagnosed with cancer fights to get back to team

By Stefan Scrafield
Daily Texan Staff

It has been a difficult year for the UT club hockey team. For assistant coach Jim White, the battles that take place on the ice have taken a backseat.

While the Longhorns have faced off against North Texas, UTSA and Texas A&M this season, White has been forced to deal with a more difficult opponent: cancer. His battle with kidney cancer has impacted his team more than any game could.

Dave McShane, also an assistant coach for Texas, has been working alongside White for years. The two led the Austin bantam travel team to a 20-

1-1 record in 2006-07, just one year before joining the Longhorn staff.

"He really is a student of the game," McShane said.

White was one of the first coaches in the Austin area to earn his Level 5 Coaching Certificate, the highest level awarded to coaches by USA Hockey. Before the 2008-09 season, Texas head coach Bob Smith asked White and McShane to join his staff and work on strengthening the ice hockey program.

"At that time, he was a huge guy," McShane explained. "He was incredibly strong, benched huge amounts of weight and most likely had the hardest shot in town."

Goaltender Ryan McSherry and de-

fenseman Will Harlin both played for White during the 2008-2009 season.

"He was one of the better, if not the best coach I ever played for," said McSherry, an electrical engineering graduate student.

There aren't too many things more important to White than the game of hockey. The Philadelphia native wrote an instructional book on half-ice practice drills. However, if there was anything that meant more to Jim White than the game itself, it was the players who played it. Both McSherry and Harlin, a sophomore business major, agreed that although White was tough on them at times and didn't mind making his guys skate an extra few laps, he was understanding and

cared about every one of his players.

"The coaching staff and the kids in the locker room were the most important people in his life, right up there with his wife and family," Harlin said.

Things took quite a turn for White and the entire program in the middle of last season. During his trips to the weight room, White began to notice a pain in his back. At McShane's urging, White went to see a chiropractor.

After just a couple sessions, the chiropractor could tell that there was something more severe than a muscle strain in White's lower back. He was referred to another doctor who took some X-rays and noticed a handlike shape surrounding the lower part of

his spine.

It was a tumor.

The doctor knew that the cancer could not have come from the spine itself and as a result, traced it back to where it had originated in the kidney.

"When you lose a person who means that much to your team, it really hits you hard," McSherry said.

White's kidney was removed in February of last year, and he has continued to battle the cancer ever since. His former 260-pound, athletic stature is hard to imagine at this point. White continued to lose weight last year but is stabilized now at around 170 pounds.

Just a few weeks ago, the cancer and

other complications led to White being put on life support. When White's wife was asked by the doctor if she wished for him to be put on support, she gave a firm response.

"If there's a chance, I want him to have it," she said.

McShane heard the news just before the Longhorns took to the ice in Austin for a game against North Texas. After informing the team about White's status, they prayed for him together. About a week later, White fought his way back and was once again supporting himself.

White's illness has forced him to take a break from coaching, but the team continues to hope and pray for his return.

RECRUITS continues from PAGE 7

peated all over the country on national signing day — the first opportunity for current high school seniors to make official where they will play collegiate football.

"I didn't know my signature meant so much on a piece of paper," Russell said.

An hour later and 22 miles further north on Interstate Highway 35, running back Malcolm Brown signed his letter of intent as part of a different affair. In the auditorium of Steele High School in Cibolo, a small northeastern suburb of San Antonio, Brown and five of his classmates pledged themselves to play next season for Division I programs.

Steele won the 5A Division II state championship in December and three of its athletes will compete in the Big 12 come fall — Brown at UT, Marquis Anderson at The University of Oklahoma and Ryan Simmons at Oklahoma State University.

"You're not going to find a better teammate," said Mike Jinks, Brown's head coach at Steele. "Texas is getting

a pretty special young man."

About 250 students, coaches and family members packed the auditorium on the frigid Wednesday morning, and another 20 or so members of the media. According to *Rivals.com*,

son to serve in the same capacity at The University of Arizona. However, the running back never wavered from his commitment — part of the reason he signed early Wednesday morning, instead of waiting like

“Most of those guys didn't even waver, and I'm really, really proud of that fact.”
— Mack Brown, Head Coach

he is the best running back recruit in the nation and is a consensus top-10 pick across the other two major recruiting services.

"It's been a long time coming," said Tommy Brown, Malcolm's father. "I'm just happy with him and his decision."

Brown was recruited by Duane Akina, former UT defensive backs coach, who left the team this offsea-

some other recruits.

"I'm ready to just get there and do my part," Brown said. "Sometimes change is good."

No matter the fanfare, Wednesday represented the single most important football-related event for hundreds of high school students across the state.

All 22 recruits with verbal com-

mitments to UT signed their letters Wednesday, including four-star defensive back Quandre Diggs and four-star receiver Jaxon Shipley. Others who showed interest in Texas dragged the process along before deciding to play elsewhere, such as defensive end Jermauria Rasco of Shreveport, La., who will be at LSU in August. Overall, of the 30 offers extended by Texas, head coach Mack Brown finished with a little more than 73 percent of his targeted prospects despite some major staff changes since the end of last season.

"I thought they trusted me and our staff to hire the right guys," Brown said. "Most of those guys didn't even waver, and I'm really, really proud of that fact."

Now, with all the excitement of signing day behind them and a full staff ready to begin spring practice, the Longhorns must focus on rebuilding with the pieces they have in place and not what could have been.

STREET continues from PAGE 7

horns to the national championship in 1969. Huston said he could have played football at Texas but would not have been anything more than a special teams player.

"God blesses you with certain abilities," he said. "And football was not the ability that he gave me to be great at."

Street enjoyed the excitement of football, but it didn't measure up to his love of baseball.

"Baseball was something I had more sincere passion for because I felt I had an opportunity there," he said. "Football was more about the thrill of the tackle and the first hit of the game."

Street arrived at Texas in 2001 and made his Longhorn debut in the spring of 2002. He made 14 saves his freshman season and was named a Freshman First Team All-American. During the 2002 College World Series, he set a record with four saves, helping the Longhorns win their first College World Series since 1983.

"I'd grown up dreaming of playing at Texas, and I got lucky with the success of those teams and the relationships I forged," Street said. "The timing was perfect."

Street said he remembers most of the relationships he forged with his teammates and is thankful to his coaches who helped him become a better baseball player and a better person. Head coach Augie Garrido taught him mental preparation, associate head coach Tommy Harmon taught him toughness and pitching coach Frank Anderson lowered his arm angle.

"You take pieces from everybody, but without the University of Texas, I wouldn't be standing here today," Street said. "Without a doubt in my mind, it is the reason I was able to accomplish what I did."

Street and the Longhorns came up short in 2004, losing to Califor-

nia State Fullerton in the world series. After the season, Street entered the Major League Baseball draft and was selected in the first round by the Oakland Athletics. Getting into the MLB was something Street never thought he could accomplish growing up.

"All I wanted to do was come to Texas," he said. "Texas was the end of the road for me. It was as high as I'd dreamed, as far as I'd thought."

Street spent 2004 in the minor leagues and was called up to Oakland at the beginning of the 2005 season. He pitched as a reliever for the first month and a half for the Athletics, until a teammate's injury opened up the closer spot for him.

Street was named American League Rookie of the Year in 2005.

He has had an up-and-down career since leaving Texas and has struggled with injuries in the past two seasons. Last July, his season was cut short when a line drive hit him during batting practice and he had to be hospitalized.

"Baseball is a game of adjustments; it's a game of staying healthy," Street said. "It's about learning your preparation and your own routine. It's different for every single individual."

Street has been in the majors for six years but is still tweaking his training program. He took the offseason to make adjustments and hopes to be healthy for the start of training camp in a couple of weeks.

It's been 10 years since Street started his career at Texas, but he can still remember when he played in the alumni game in college. Back then, he looked up to Texas alumni that returned to play, such as Dennis Cook, Greg Swindle and Roger Clemens.

"They told me, 'No matter how long you play in the pros, it's the years at Texas you remember the most,'" Street said. "And it's absolutely true."

TACKLE continues from PAGE 7

to be named a U.S. Army All-American. He is also the first from his school in a long time to go to a university as well-known as Texas. Russell's scholarship is monumental to a school that faced closure at the beginning of last year.

"We have a lot of young juniors and sophomores that are going to follow in his footsteps," said Gary Green, head coach at Sam Houston. "He's a flagship ... he's the first"

Aside from an increase in talent level, a general economic boom has seen a large number of immigrants to San Antonio, and more people means more high

school students.

"[The] San Antonio area has really grown leaps and bounds over the last four or five years," Jinks said. "I know that we have signed 34 guys to Division I scholarships [this year from San Antonio] ... if you looked back 5 or 10 years ago then that just wasn't there."

Expect many more recruits out of the San Antonio area in years to come. This region is a hotbed of individual talent that is fueled by intense coaching and high levels of competition. Who knows, maybe the next Tyler Rose will be a San Antonio native.

STARS continues from PAGE 7

Green, who better get used to playing in cold weather, as he's headed to Nebraska, had a nice return of 40 yards on the opening kickoff. Kiehl Frazier, an Auburn commit, flashed the athleticism from the quarterback position that has many recruiting analysts boldly calling him the next Cam Newton. Frazier finished with 48 yards rushing, to go with 40 yards passing in limited duty.

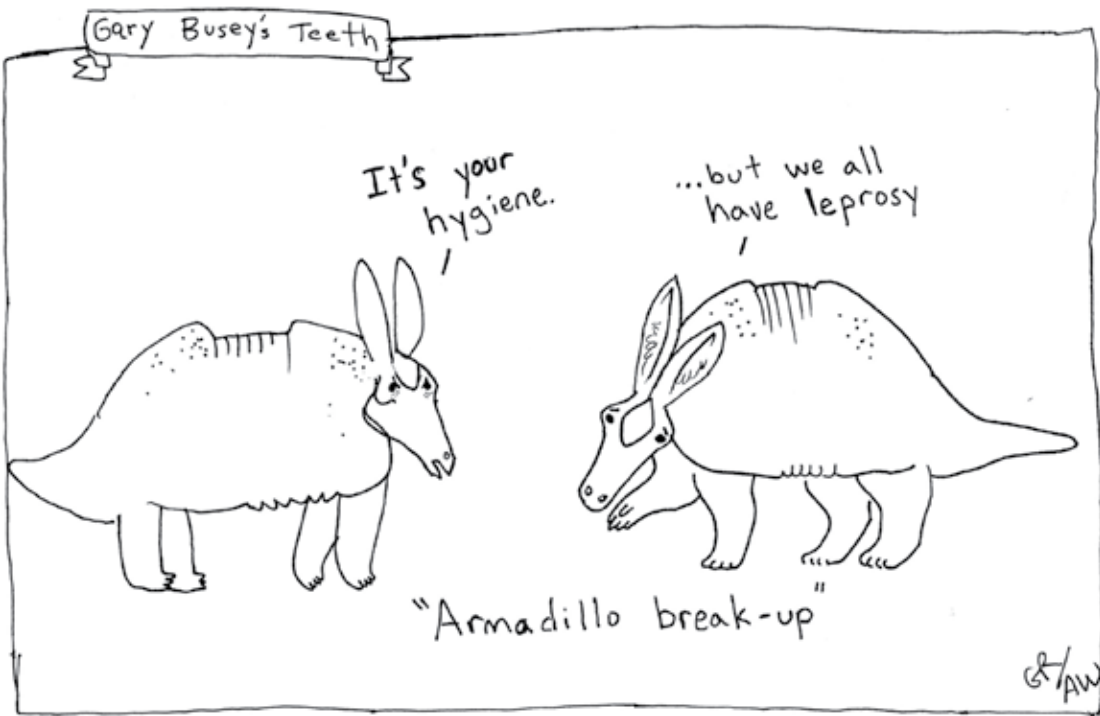
But the night belonged to Bergeron. Thought of as one who can play running back, fullback or halfback for the Longhorns, Bergeron's performance all but demands a look as a featured back come fall camp. He's a workhorse — big, strong run-

ner who seeks contact and falls forward. On a frigid night, Bergeron was the hot hand on a team stacked with running backs.

"We wanted Joe to help us milk the clock near there at the end," Allman said. "He's such a powerful back and he's the total package. There's a reason why he's going to UT. They got a good one."

Bergeron accounted for more than half of Team USA's final rushing total on the night and was named their MVP, a fine cap on his standout high school career. Next up: a chance to star at Texas.

"When the weather permits," he said. "I'll show you a little bit more."



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		6	7	5	2		8	
		8	1	9			3	
3	6			8			9	5
	9			3	5	2		
	8		9	2	1	7		
			3	4		5		2

Yesterday's solution

7	9	4	1	3	2	6	5	8
2	5	3	8	7	6	4	1	9
8	6	1	9	5	4	2	7	3
9	4	6	3	8	5	7	2	1
5	1	7	4	2	9	8	3	6
3	2	8	6	1	7	9	4	5
4	8	5	7	6	3	1	9	2
1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6	7
6	7	2	5	9	1	3	8	4

THE GAME IS AFOOT

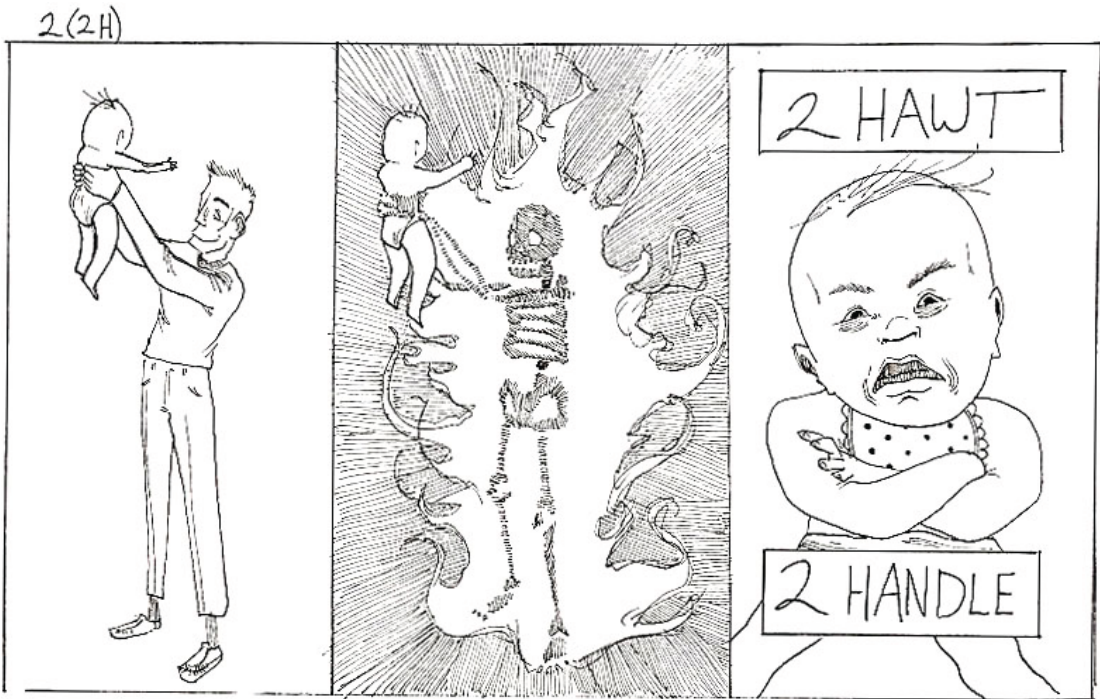


Rory Harman

Big Black Nothing



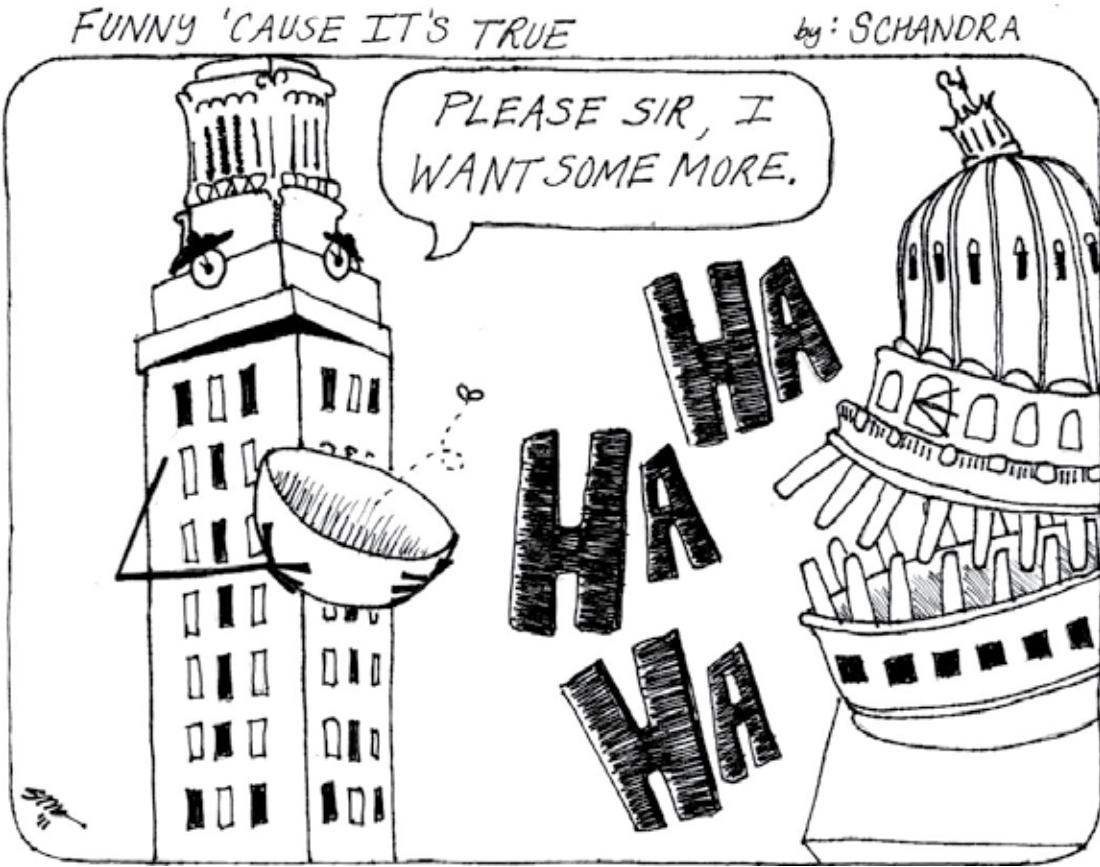
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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1230

Across

- 1 Dull shade
- 4 Road caution
- 7 Place for a hammer
- 12 One in on the founding of a company
- 15 River of York
- 16 Record label of the Beatles' "Ain't She Sweet"
- 17 Spy sent by Moses into Canaan
- 18 Production site chief
- 19 Wonder of note
- 21 Yes ____
- 23 One getting a bouquet?
- 28 Makes fun of
- 31 Profess

Down

- 32 It flows near the Piazzale Michelangelo
- 33 Workplace where there are many openings
- 35 Sorento and Sedona
- 36 "Our Gang" approval
- 37 Plentiful
- 38 Song played at the school dance in "Back to the Future"
- 41 Kind of year: Abbr.
- 42 Chinese for "black dragon"
- 45 Officially
- 49 Schubert's "Eine kleine Trauermusik," e.g.
- 50 1996 Gwyneth Paltrow title role
- 51 River in a 1957 hit film
- 52 Warning to intruders
- 53 Young fish that has migrated from the Sargasso Sea
- 54 Rubble maker, for short
- 55 Some Windows systems

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

POD	RENAME	BLAM
ACE	EMINOR	LAVE
BEN	PINACOL	ADAS
LAS	VEGAS	DAHLIA
ONE	EAR	STEP
EL		
SLAP	ASTA	
APAT	TIKI	OMBRE
JALAP	ENOPE	PEPPERS
ANGLO	ASEA	HASP
STAT	ISTO	
BAP	ISAO	THREAT
AMIGOS	MARIACHI	
MANANASE	NOR	OYL
BIOL	DOGOOD	NED
ANNA	SPASMS	OSE

Puzzle by Joe Kroll

28 One may be running over time

29 Headquarters for Polynesian Airlines

30 Schnapps flavor

31 Legal cases?

32 Judo maneuvers

34 Highlander

36 Song words accompanying "Sherrie" and "Susanna"

39 Nervous laugh

40 Enter an Ivy League school, maybe

41 Many a French business partner

42 "The Suze ____ Show"

43 Kind of situation

44 Award

45 Half-wit

46 Airing

47 Pre-____ (take the place of)

48 Pad

49 Ft. Myers-to-Orlando dir.

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Bar provides after-hours hot spot for politicians

THIRSTY THURSDAY
By Gerald Rich

There aren't many conversations that leave the inky black Cloak Room bar. Veiled in the shadows of a windowless basement, the Cloak Room is a refuge for politicians, lobbyists and anyone wanting to rub elbows with them. Although it's been within yards of the Capitol's back fence since 1979, few are willing to talk at length about its rich history.

The bar hasn't changed much after years of ownership by various lobbyists, lawmakers and lawyers throughout its many years. Those who do go on the record about it don't talk much. Who would, especially when their careers rely upon their images?

"There's just not that much to say," replies the bar manager, who wanted to be known as Bev. "Some people just don't like being talked about. It's nothing bad. It's just ..."

Bev leaves the last thought unfinished as she continues opening the bar and serving people.

Despite it only being 30 minutes after opening at 3 p.m., people are beginning to trickle in and loosen their ties a bit.

There's an eerie silence when the jukebox isn't playing. As the night wears on, its beloved classic folk, rock and blues songs will kick on, and the patrons' cussing will crank up to match the volume of the machine.

But questions about the establishment aren't helping relieve the cold afternoon's silence.

"We don't really need any publicity," Bev adds.

It's been years since the Cloak Room has been written about — almost eight to be exact. That was when Texas Monthly's John Spong wrote about the tiny dive bar.

"I can recall evenings in the bar watching House members and lobbyists slow dance to Barry White on the jukebox, overhearing a high-placed Democratic party functionary cuss the party membership for blaming her for last November's losses, and marveling at a pair of young lovers who returned weak in the knees from a brief second honeymoon in the ladies' room," Spong wrote in July of 2003.

No one at the bar seems to have forgotten his article. Especially seeing as it referred to several embarrassing incidents ranging from the then acting Court of Criminal Appeals judges getting drunk with lobbyists, an un-



Christina Gomez | Daily Texan Staff

Hidden between buildings and an alleyway, the Cloak Room's dimly lit sign is the only visible feature of the bar from street level. The Cloak Room is a popular destination for politicians.

named House member receiving a brief lap dance in 2001 and another who began impromptu bartending until he had to relieve himself in a trash can outside the bar.

Nevertheless, anyone can take the steep flight of stairs down to find a gloomy getaway. Maybe it's

smile.

It's one of the first jokes she's cracked since the brief, informal interview started. That's almost a miracle considering that Yelp members and Spong have written about her with fearful reverence. On more than one occasion, she's given women the boot for getting

bring each new lady to the Cloak Room," Dave F. wrote on Yelp last week. "If she didn't like it, I knew things weren't going to turn out well. The Cloak Room is cool like that."

As the afternoon wears on, tensions ease as more drinks are consumed. Several young attractive women walk into the bar still wearing their slender suits. They introduce themselves as lobbyists from other universities around Texas. Finally, with eyes fully adjusted, theirs and everyone else's name tags and pins indicating their affiliations come into sharp focus.

Spong was right when he wrote that this is truly where anyone, regardless of opinions and affiliations, can grab a drink together. Whether you're a lobbyist, staffer, intern, representative or senator, it doesn't matter.

Sometimes at the end of a long, bitter cold day in session, they could all use a drink. Like Bev said, there's not much beyond that. Without a doubt, there are pages of history and stories inside the shadowy Cloak Room that have not seen the light of day. The only hints available are in the single well-lit area of the bar. Cluttering the walls of the entire stairway up to the bathroom, hundreds of glossy, reflective photos almost blind you.

Most of the smiling patrons

WHAT: The Cloak Room

WHERE: 13th and Colorado streets

WHEN: 3 p.m. to 2 a.m.

COST: \$5 - \$10

BEST TIMES: Happy Hour or if the Legislature is in session

When I was dating a lot, I'd bring each new lady to the Cloak Room. If she didn't like it, I knew things weren't going to turn out well.

—David F, Yelp contributor

the stiff signature cocktails Bev pours by a half-dead flashlight behind the bar that have a way of erasing any stress out of your mind. Maybe it's sitting at the electronic gambling machine and playing a game or two.

Suddenly, a programmed message pops up saying if you beat any of Bev's high scores, you can get free drinks Sunday.

"People try, but we're not open on Sundays," Bev said with a

too friendly with their companions at the bar.

It's still too hard to recognize anyone, much less any handy individuals. The dim red Christmas lights illuminate the place enough to see it's not too different from any old dive bar. It's homey, and the true regulars talk to Bev like they are good friends no matter what it is they do when they leave the Cloak Room.

"When I was dating a lot, I'd

in the photos are unfamiliar to a younger, less politically savvy eye. Each photo is a snapshot of a moment that will go to the grave of the photographer and the subjects. You could spend hours staring at all of them, looking for some dirt but seeing only people enjoying themselves.

There might have been a time when patrons would have pointed to these photos proudly and regaled you with legendary, off-the-record stories. No one seems that talkative anymore after Texas Monthly described this place as where the wheels of government are greased. They just flatly say, "Read the article."

As of recently, it's just a place where men and women go to disappear from the brightly lit rotunda of the Capitol. Any greasing would be muttered beneath the toe tapping to Crosby, Stills and Nash.

STYLE

continues from PAGE 12

be a little bit warmer because it's cool when you get to wear [winter clothing] but not when you have to walk all around the campus."

Since Tuesday, when the Canadian cold front first hit, the student population at UT has made itself scarce by staying indoors, although power outages have caused trouble indoors as well.

Considering the spring-like weather that graced Austin last weekend — with temperatures topping out in the high 70s — it was possible to pretend that winter was a thing of the past. But Texas is always up to its climate trickery. Despite the sun shining high in the sky Tuesday, the weather reality caught a few people off guard, and they were seen still sporting warm-weather attire. Spanish and finance senior Grace Kim and neurobiology junior Jane Hong were two of these unlucky few. After a workout at Gregory Gym, their goose-bumped limbs shivered under thin T-shirts and Nike running shorts.

"People at Gregory [were] looking at us crazy," Kim said.

Much more sensibly, Katie Garcia, a retail merchandising and textiles and apparel senior, made an aesthetic statement while still keeping warm. She was enveloped in a tangerine-colored, oversized knitted sweater belted with a woven cream and tan belt. Underneath, she wore a cream and brown patterned top, black skirt and leggings, with knee-high brown leather boots and red knee-high socks.

"I just got this sweater, and I just love it and have been trying to wear it everywhere," she said. "I love the statement it makes because of the color and the way it flows. I have a few sweaters that I have in a container that I just box out during the summer [and] will bust out during the winter time, but I don't like to spend a lot of money on winter clothes because I don't wear them too much."

The fashionable truth appears to be that whether you are wrapped up in basics, such as a fleece and sweats, or something more stylish, such as velvet leggings and a camel cape, all that really matters is that you are prepared for the chilly climate, and maybe snow, for the rest of the week.



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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ELLIS ISLAND

Solution: 8 letters

S E E G U F E R E S T O R E D
S T A T U E N I L D R A N U C
T B A T T E R Y Y K A D I Y N
N R L T U P P E R A R N N T S
A E A L I T S O P I T A S R N
R I W N A O Y T H E C S P E O
G D A J S W N T R S D E B I
I L T E E A O N R A E S C I T
M O E N B R T U P A I V T L A
M S R A Y A S L N E I T I O N
I T N D F R S E A D E N O R I
Y K U L D Y R E Y N E L N T M
S T A L A N I M R E T D S A A
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Yesterday's Answer: Intercity

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PRINCESS OF THE ICE



I-Hwa Cheng | Daily Texan Staff

After skating classes begin, a young girl plays with friends outside Chaparral Ice's skating rink Wednesday evening.

HEROES continues from PAGE 12

a super-substance abuser; and two soon-to-be-star-crossed lovers, Memory Lass and The Tune. Their dialogue reveals the play's multiple themes, such as love, idealism and the artistic process — specifically, the difficulty of getting any project off the ground.

However, the heroes' production faces the threat of collapse from the beginning.

It appears as though the citizens of Fathom Town are uninterested in supporting the heroes' endeavor. As the Enforcers continue to solicit funds, their pasts slowly unfold, revealing that the island in "The Tempest" was once their lovely Fathom Town.

During this turning point, the play begins to explore how art is created. Although no tickets have been sold for the play-within-a-play, the Enforcers relay their past

arguments over the minute details of productions to the potential fundraising sponsors.

Through their phone conversations, the superheroes reveal that tensions rose as they competed for control over the famous storm scene. The many deliberations weren't decisive, but the heroes commence with the play anyway, only to have some surprising audience members show up.

The performance has several hilarious lines and moments, especially as the Fathom Town Enforcers try to convince the public of their project's merit. Shakespeare lines are enthusiastically and melodramatically recited to each other while on separate phones.

The Bad Map rants non sequiturs about cats. The Tune is shamelessly in love with Memory Lass, a heroine who can remember every-

thing but The Tune's name. Meanwhile, The Intoxicator keeps slipping the others drinks and drugs to help them deal with the stress, and to "foster" the creative process — an gesture that ends with a fruitless three-hour stream-of-conscious note session.

"Spirits to Enforce" is often seen as a difficult play to execute because none of the actors speak directly to each other. There are no scene changes, and the most movement is as far as a wired phone can reach. The plot lags in the middle of the production.

Until the characters began to reveal more about themselves, the constant solicitation seems repetitive and tiresome. Once the heroes' connection to "The Tempest" becomes apparent, the super-telemarketers become more relatable. The result is a combination of the

WHAT: "Spirits to Enforce"

WHERE: XBlue Theatre 916 Springdale Rd.

WHEN: Feb.10-12

WEB: www.capitalT.org

TICKETS: \$10

immortality of Shakespeare and the ridiculousness of comic book-like heroes.

As the curtain rises on their production of "The Tempest," their frustrations and hesitations fall away. In the end, "Spirits to Enforce" captures the reality of artistic creation: striving and ultimately failing to achieve a goal, but instead creating another entity entirely.

Screenwriters in Hollywood aim to change Muslim image

By Gillian Flaccus
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — After years of watching Muslims portrayed as terrorists in mainstream TV and movies, an advocacy group hopes to change that image by grooming a crop of aspiring Muslim screenwriters who can bring their stories — and perspective — to Hollywood.

The Muslim Public Affairs Council is hosting a series of workshops taught by Emmy-winning and Oscar-nominated veterans over the next month, an initiative that builds on the group's outreach for a more representative picture of Muslim-Americans on the screen.

The workshops are the natural evolution of MPAC's efforts to lobby TV networks and movie studios from the outside, and they fit into a small, but growing, movement to get more Muslim-Americans behind the cameras.

"The idea is to really give Muslims an avenue to tell our stories. It's as simple as that. There's a curiosity about Islam and a curiosity about who Muslims are — and a lot of the fear that we're seeing comes from only hearing one story or these constant negative stories," said Deana Nassar, MPAC's Hollywood liaison.

At the council's first screenwriting workshop last Saturday, three dozen attendees packed into a classroom in downtown Los Angeles to hear Emmy-winning comedy writer Ed Driscoll give tips of the trade, from knowing the audience to mak-

ing a script outline.

Khadijah Rashid, 33, said before class that her Hollywood experience included working behind the scenes on everything from reality TV to the award-winning biopic "Ray."

But Rashid said she had always felt her own story — growing up Muslim in the Deep South — was the tale she most wanted to tell.

"I don't think it's much drama, but it's my own personal drama," said Rashid, now a single mother living in Pasadena. "I definitely want to tell my story, but I need to learn how. If I get the tools, I'll just pour it out."

The goal is not to spoon-feed Hollywood Muslim-friendly story lines, but to increase awareness of the diversity of American Muslims and to be a resource for writers and producers, Nassar said.

"When you're sitting in the writer's room, and you've got to come up with a plot line and you've got to come up with a bad guy, it's really easy to pull that out and say, 'OK, Muslim terrorist,'" said T.S. Cook, an Oscar-nominated screenwriter who will teach two of the four sessions. "It's a lazy man's way to villainy — and it's pretty ingrained."

Writer Roger Wolfson, who worked on the TNT drama "Saving Grace," said MPAC consultants were invaluable when he was assigned to write a script for an episode that featured a black death-row inmate who was converting to Islam.

The episode was one of the high points of Wolfson's career.



Damian Dovarganes | Associated Press

Producer-writer Khadijah Rashid works on a script at her home. Rashid started the production company Muslimah Movies.

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Division I programs. They need to take a hard look and realize that they're not enhancing the academic experience. They're detracting from it."

Bissinger is not someone who just casually knows sports and is decrying its uselessness. This is a man who spent almost two years researching every nuance and reach of football in Odessa, from the fans to the teammates. This is a man who wrote the National Magazine-nominated story on Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro for "Vanity Fair," for which he is a contributing editor. This is a man who helped LeBron James work on his memoir, "Shooting Stars."

So when Bissinger says that the system of sports is faulty, he knows what he's talking about. His critique on sports will be a part of his speaking engagement tonight called "Friday Night Lights and Beyond: The Critical State of Sports Today."

Despite Bissinger's prolific work on sports, he doesn't consider himself a sports writer. And he's right. He writes about sports, among many other things, most notably politics. Instead of contributing to the glut of blog updates and stories that pump up mundane plays or hype the game, Bissinger writes about sports' marginal and sociological impacts, enlarging details and people that are always there but never examined. For example, in his book, "Friday Night Lights," he turned what could have been a "Remember the Titans" story of triumph into a focused look at the undercurrent of racism that played into the school's spirit and the flawed education system.

"When I write about sports, I don't write about the hero worship of it or the inside-the-game aspect of it," Bissinger said. "What I see is the overheated hype and the dangers it can cause as well as the hypocrisy. I try to write sports as an outsider rather than as an insider. I don't really care about who makes what play when."

His style of emergent journalism has been honed since his aspiration to be a journalist at the

age of 10. Moving from the high school paper to The Daily Pennsylvanian at the University of Pennsylvania, he became a reporter at The Philadelphia Inquirer, where he won a Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting. Soon after winning, Bissinger moved to Odessa and released "Friday Night Lights" in 1990, which became an instant best seller.

Although "Friday Night Lights" featured a searing portrait of Odessa's flawed values and led to a stronger emphasis on academics rather than just football, sports elsewhere have only grown into a larger all-consuming monster from the little leagues to the pros.

In Bissinger's view, sports no longer means building character and playing for the love of the game. It now means an easy ticket to money and an inflated ego. Thanks to sports, media can produce exaggerated and dramatic hero worship while calling itself sports journalism, Bissinger said. Because of sports, parents irrationally push children to professional stardom. With sports, college coaches can accept astronomical salaries even though the players perform on the field and train so much that academics are almost always neglected.

"We in America look at why we don't perform well academically, and it's because college is full of distraction," Bissinger said. "And it's true of the Ivies, it's true of Duke, it's true of Texas, it's true of every place. It's too much about partying, it's too much about sports, it's too much about this."

Yet Bissinger does not see ending sports as the solution to the flaws of the system. For all his critiques, he still enjoys the allures of watching a game.

"I can detach myself because the thing about sports is that it's irresistible, it's exciting, it's finite," Bissinger said. "There's a winner. There's a loser. You know, athletes are amazing — great athletes are remarkable, they do remarkable things. It's not a question about getting rid of sports. It's about lowering the volume."

HORROR continues from PAGE 12

audience of rowdy horror fans, it's really a different movie."

Unfortunately, the theatrical run of "Hatchet II" was short-lived. The film, which was released unrated in AMC theaters after the MPAA refused to budge on its highly restrictive NC-17 rating, was pulled from theaters across the country before its opening weekend was over. The MPAA billed the decision as purely business, claiming the film didn't pull in enough revenue to continue screening, but Green blames the unrated film screening.

Green is adamant that "Hatchet II" didn't deserve its NC-17 rating, though. The film's R-rated version is almost two minutes shorter than the unrated version and reduces many of the film's most memorable moments to brief flashes of what they once were.

"The whole tone of these movies is so silly and fantastical that there's nothing in it that could really happen," he said. "Nobody's ever walking out of these movies disturbed. When people see these movies, they're laughing and clapping. For people who ques-

tion the decision to go out unrated, they should rent the R-rated version [produced specifically for Redbox rental]."

The film's shoot was just as brutal as the final result. With a higher budget, Green was able to shoot on a soundstage where they

The whole tone of these movies is so silly and fantastical that there's nothing in it that could really happen.

— Adam Green, Director

built a realistic swamp. However, with the swamp, came fungus and disease. Within the first week, there was a swine flu outbreak on set.

"All day, every day, people were throwing up, and we had to wear these surgical masks," Green said. "Coming off of 'Frozen' [which was shot on a snow-capped mountain], it was supposed to

be a cakewalk on a nice, comfy soundstage, and it was hell. It was absolute misery."

Green is notable for going back and forth between slasher films like the "Hatchet" series and more serious, psychological fare such as last year's "Frozen," which fo-

huge rush from listening to people respond so vocally. When I do conventions, no one is coming through with tattoos of the chair lift. They're coming through with Victor Crowley and his hatchet."

Despite the sequel's somewhat definitive ending, Green says a third film is always a possibility.

"I feel like there was closure and a satisfying ending if we don't do another one," Green said. "If we do another one, I won't be coming back to direct. I will produce it; I will handpick whoever takes my place because I want to make sure the movies keep getting better each time. Then again, after I did the first one, I was saying I wouldn't come back. As long as I get to do other stuff, I'm always happy to come back and do this, because this is just pure, absolute fun and enjoyment."

"Hatchet II," available on DVD, boasts the highest body count ever for a slasher film and more than earns its title with memorable kills, a strong cast and a comedic bent that makes the second installment in the series worth seeking out.

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WEEKEND

**The Middle East:
What Comes Next?**

As protests continue to shake Egypt, a panel of UT students and faculty will hold a discussion on the political turmoil of Tunisia and Egypt and what this recent turn of events could mean.

WHAT: The Middle East: What Comes Next?

WHEN: Today, 5 to 7 p.m.

WHERE: LBJ School of Public Affairs, Sid Richardson Hall 3.124

TICKETS: Free

6th and Waller F.A.M. Weekend

Enjoy a concert, art exhibition, live paintings and outdoor artist market all in the same venue. Musical performers include Clemits, Southern Envy, Some and Fields of Forel.

WHAT: 6th and Waller F.A.M. Weekend

WHEN: Friday, 7 p.m. to midnight

WHERE: Sixth and Waller Streets

TICKETS: Free

Carnaval Brasileiro

A little bit of Rio makes its yearly return to Austin in a colorful burst of samba dancing, costumes, Brazilian music and songs in Portuguese.

WHAT: Carnaval Brasileiro

WHEN: Saturday, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

WHERE: Palmer Events Center

TICKETS: \$35

**Annual Mustache Party
Contest Extravaganza**

The time has come for the crown of facial hair glory to be passed on to a new Mustache King. Categories for this year's mustache contest include Creepiest, Most Macho and Most Magnificent. All 'staches (real or not) get \$1 beer all night.

WHAT: Annual Mustache Party Contest Extravaganza

WHEN: Saturday, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

WHERE: Jackalope Bar

TICKETS: Free

High fashion in low temperatures

By Amber Genuske & Julie Rene Tran



Photos by Charlie Pearce | Daily Texan Staff

The icy grip of winter that took hold of Austin this week brought with it a plenty of problems — frozen pipes, frosty fingers and rolling power outages to name a few. It also offered an opportunity for the fashionable few in Central Texas who keep eye-catching cold-weather gear in the back of their closet all year in anticipation of falling temperatures.

Across the Forty Acres and down the Drag, amidst all the North Face fleeces, ill-fitting beanies, faux Uggs and unseasonable sneakers, it was still possible to spot attractive fur-lined jackets, textured tights and leggings and stylish leather-booted feet.

As the temperatures tumbled into the 20s and even lower with the unrelenting wind, one of those fashion-forward individuals was civil engineering senior Javier Del Real. Even though he appeared well prepared for the cold snap in a trio of leather garments — including a jacket, boots and even suede gloves — Real said he yearned for the warmer weather of his native Monterrey.

“Most of all, I wear my suede gloves because I ride my bike to school so that way my hands won’t freeze,” he said. “I think winter clothes look better, even though I would prefer warmer weather. I wish it could

STYLE continues on **PAGE 10**

MOVIE REVIEW HATCHET II



Courtesy of Dark Sky Films

“Hatchet II” lives up to its blood-soaked predecessor with the highest body count ever in a slasher film.

‘Hatchet II’ delights audiences with hallmarks of slasher films

By Alex Williams
Daily Texan Staff

Adam Green’s “Hatchet II,” which released on DVD Tuesday, is a slasher film set in the heyday of the 1980s. Green, like many other impressionable youths, grew up absorbing the excessive blood, gore and nudity of the cheesy slasher films of that era, and the influence shows in every gloriously over-the-top scene of “Hatchet II.”

During the film’s North American premiere at Fantastic Fest, Green challenged audiences in two theaters simultaneously screening the film to clap and cheer louder than the opposing theater. Both crowds, filled with gore-hungry horror fans eager to see the hatchet-wielding Victor Crowley unleashed, were ri-



Hatchet II Dark Sky Films

Genre: Horror
Runtime: 89 minutes
For those who like: Friday the 13th, The Evil Dead

Grade: B+

ous as the film’s body count skyrocketed.

“When people don’t know what’s coming, the very vocal reaction that you get from the audience is hilarious,” Green said.

Green designed the film’s sound and score to be viewed in a theater.

“When there’s going to be a

kill or something, you know that there’s going to be an interruption of clapping or cheering, so you build that stuff in,” he said. “That’s why it’s a shame that more people don’t get to see these movies on the big screen. When you see it with a whole

HORROR continues on **PAGE 11**

EVENT PREVIEW

‘Lights’ creator to talk about sports culture

By Christopher Nguyen
Daily Texan Staff

In 1988, far from the bustling urban streets of Philadelphia where he was an editor at The Philadelphia Inquirer, Buzz Bissinger took a leave from his job, packed his bags and settled his family in Odessa, Texas, to live for the next year. Instead of the lights of skyscrapers, the only lights in this small town came on Fridays, when the bristling, huge bulbs that surrounded Permian High School’s multimillion dollar stadium lit up to reveal the football team’s skill and strength on the field. Thousands packed the stands to put their hopes onto the shoulders of these high school stu-

dents. In a time when dropping oil prices showed no end to the town’s economic decline, the people of Odessa could rely on their mojo to win, having become state champions four times in the past 20 years.

This frenzy was why Bissinger decided to move to Odessa, setting out to write the story of a football team’s journey to the playoffs in a town where football reigned. The religious fervor with which Odessa lived seemed almost unbelievable, but strip away some parts and what’s left is the same sports fanaticism that is now found in just about every high school stadium, college campus and city with a professional team. It’s an emphasis that Bissinger looks at with

WHAT: “Friday Night Lights and Beyond: The Critical State of Sports Today”

WHERE: AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center Amphitheater

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

PRICE: Free

incredulous bafflement.

“It’s getting worse and worse,” Bissinger said. “The trend is that it’s never going to change. Colleges feel that this is a ticket to something, so they build new stadiums and start

LIGHTS continues on **PAGE 11**

‘The Tempest’ revised with superheroes

By Courtney Griffin
Daily Texan Staff

There’s a table in the center of the room, and 20s music playing in the background while 12 world-weary superheroes sit with phones on a long table center stage. The lights come up and chaos erupts as the performers begin to talk over each other while answering phones.

Mickle Maher’s play and FronteraFest feature, “Spirits to Enforce,” directed by Gary Jaffe, can best be described by this scene of disarrayed dialogue and intertwining plotlines.

The performance combines elements of Shakespeare’s “The Tempest,” memorable superheroes and telemarketing to create 90 minutes of frenzied hilarity. The heroes, known as the Fathom Town Enforcers, are tired of catering to the needs of others and wish to put on “The Tempest” as an escape from their everyday duties. However, the ruckus settles as the story unfolds, elaborating on the difficulties and struggles involved in producing a play.

The play begins with the 12 superheroes jumbling, mumbling and overlapping lines.

The Silhouette, a young female whose shadow puppets come to life, sits on the far end with The Bad Map, a superhero who is always lost. Other memorable superheroes include Fragrance Fellow, who has a super nose; The Snow Heavy Branch, a man who is obsessed with winter and balance; and The Intoxicator, who is



Courtesy of Mickle Maher

UT MFA acting student Tiny Robinson plays The Ocean, a snarky immortal, in the Capital T Theater’s play, “Spirits To Enforce”

HEROES continues on **PAGE 11**